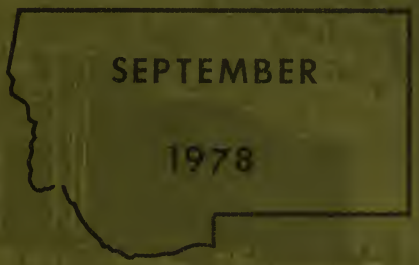
S
31
Home
Sept. 1978
c.2

PLEASE RETURN

MONTANA EMPLOYMENT AND LABOR FORCE



RESEARCH AND ANALYSIS SECTION
EMPLOYMENT SECURITY DIVISION
DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND INDUSTRY
P.O. BOX 1728
Helena, Montana
59601

JOB SERVICE

Montana State Library
3 0864 1004 4461 4

MONTANA EMPLOYMENT AND LABOR FORCE

MONTHLY REPORT

September 1978

STATE OF MONTANA

THOMAS L. JUDGE, GOVERNOR

DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND INDUSTRY
DAVID E. FULLER, COMMISSIONER

EMPLOYMENT SECURITY DIVISION
FRED BARRETT, ADMINISTRATOR

EMPLOYMENT SECURITY DIVISION
DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND INDUSTRY
Box 1728
Helena, Montana 59601

Volume 8 Number 9

Produced by:
Research and Analysis
in cooperation with the
U. S. Department of Labor
Employment and Training Administration

GLOSSARY OF TERMS

1. Civilian Labor Force - the number of persons 16 years and older, defined as employed or unemployed, excluding members of the Armed Forces.

2. Employed - those persons who work for pay or profit during a week or, as unpaid family workers, work 15 hours or more during a week. Also included as employed are those who, although not working, had some job attachment and were not looking for work, including persons temporarily absent from a job due to illness, bad weather, vacation, or labor-management dispute, whether or not they were in a pay status during their time off.

3. Unemployment - the number of persons who, for an entire week, did not work at all, were able to work and available for work, and (1) were looking for work or (2) would have looked for work except that (a) they were waiting to return to a job from which they had been laid off, or (b) they were waiting to report to a new wage and salary job scheduled to start within the following 30 days (and were not in school during the week).

4. Unemployment Rate - the number of unemployed expressed as a percent of the civilian labor force.

5. Residence Data - a count of employment by where people live.

6. Establishment Data - a count of employment by where people work.

7. Seasonally Adjusted Labor Force Series - to facilitate the evaluation of the labor force, recurrent yearly movements have been isolated and removed by the Bureau of Labor Statistics seasonal factor method.

8. Composite Index - an aggregate of six leading indicators. The indicators used are: Manufacturing - Employment, Average Weekly Hours, total Accessions and Layoffs; Average Weekly Initial Claims; and statewide Building Permits. A reverse trend was used for Layoffs and Average Weekly Initial Claims. This composite index is in no manner or form comparable to the United States composite index as published in "Business Conditions Digest", U. S. Department of Commerce.

9. Real Spendable Average Weekly Earnings of Private Nonagricultural Production Workers - represents the earnings of a hypothetical individual after deductions for State Income, Federal Income and Social Security taxes, and adjustment for change in purchasing power since 1967. This individual is assumed to be sole support for a family of four, earn the average weekly gross earnings of production workers in Montana's private nonagricultural industries, and take standard deductions on State and Federal income taxes. Taxes were computed using standard tax tables, and purchasing power was adjusted by deflating Spendable Earnings based on the national Consumer Price Index.

10. WIN - Work Incentive Program for Aid to Dependent Children recipients.

11. CETA - Comprehensive Employment and Training Act of 1974.

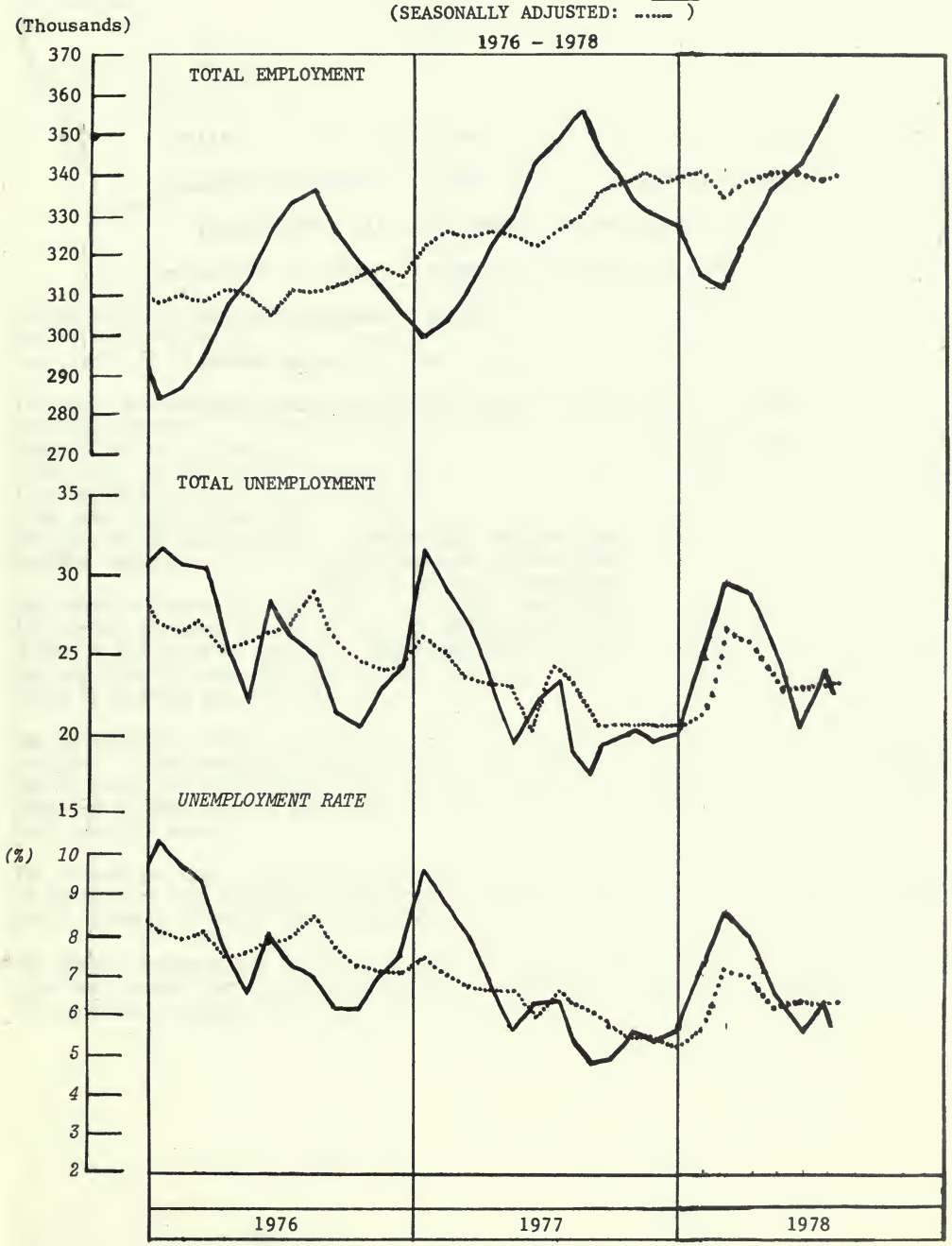
12. CETA-CEP - Concentrated Employment Program funded under the Comprehensive Employment and Training Act.

13. SMSA - Standard Metropolitan Statistical Area as determined by Office of Management and Budget. Must have a central city with population of 50,000 or more.

14. LMA - Labor Market Area as determined by the Montana Employment Security Division consists of a central city or cities with population of less than 50,000, and the economically integrated geographical area surrounding it.

MONTANA EMPLOYMENT, UNEMPLOYMENT, AND UNEMPLOYMENT RATE

(NOT SEASONALLY ADJUSTED: _____)
(SEASONALLY ADJUSTED: .....)



All Labor Force Statistics contained in this publication are in accordance with the Federal guidelines as established by the Bureau of Labor Statistics. Methodology procedures use a household sample conducted in Montana on a monthly basis, called the Current Population Survey. These official statistics are used to allocate federal funding. Any questions concerning these figures should be directed to:

Dick Gibson, Supervisor
Research & Analysis
Employment Security Division
P. O. Box 1728
Helena, MT 59601
Phone: (406) 449-2430

STATEWIDE HIGHLIGHTS

Montana's economy has reached its seasonal peak for the year according to indicators for the month of August. The factors show slight improvement over last year's August conditions, but do not seem to foretell any radical changes in the economy.

The civilian labor force contracted slightly in August to a level of 380,700 persons which is still a 2.5% increase over last August's similar statistic. Employment is an even better 3.1% larger than last year's figure, as 360,900 individuals are employed in Montana. It is interesting to note that although the labor force declined by 500 during the past month, the number of employed individuals jumped up by 1,100. This occurrence allowed the unemployment rate to dip to 5.2% from July's calculation of 5.9%. The number of unemployed declined by a substantial 2,600 to a level of 19,800 persons.

The major economic news of the month was the controversy over the pending bankruptcy and possible shutdown of a transcontinental railroad that crosses Montana. The firm employs over 800 workers in Montana with major facilities located at Deer Lodge, Harlowton, and Miles City; so the effect could be great in these smaller communities. The impact could also be felt in agriculture, as the line is the only transportation available to markets from some areas of the state. Reports have surfaced on the probable sale of the western portion of the railroad, and more developments should surface after planned meetings between managers of the firm and state officals are held.

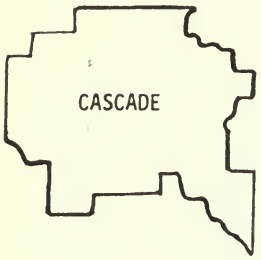
New business formations were up by 25% during August as 612 firms were formed during the period compared to 487 during the period last year. The year to date total is now 3,845, a 16% increase over last year's similar tally. New businesses are, of course, but one sign of economic vitality and should be utilized in concert with other indiators in forming any analysis.

The agricultural industry peaked during the past month as the busy harvest season occurred. Continued work in various fall activities was available despite some delays due to heavy rains but normal fall weather seems to have returned. The harvest was reported as good but not excellent, as yields per acre and the protein content were both down for wheat.

The composite index of leading indicators moved downward slightly in July but no trend is obvious in this indicator currently. Real spendable wages dropped a little as the small increase in gross wages could not counteract inflation.

The Montana economy has reached its seasonal apex and labor force statistics indicate some improvement but indicators of future conditions fail to confirm any predictions of any notable upturn in the economy.

GREAT FALLS SMSA (Cascade County)



Employment and Unemployment Situation

The jobless rate for the Great Falls SMSA fell to 6.4% from July's 6.9% rate but is still higher than last August's rate of 6.1%. The area rate also continues to exceed the statewide figure of 5.2%. The number of unemployed individuals, however, dropped by 200 to 2,200 the same level as last August.

The civilian labor force is 4.7% smaller than last year at 34,700 persons. This figure is also 400 smaller than the July level. Employment now stands at 32,500 a drop of 5% from last year's August tally of 34,200. The labor force statistics seem to indicate slightly improving conditions in a Great Falls economy that is still not at last year's level of activity.

Economic Highlights and Employment Outlook

New business formations in the Great Falls area number 332 for the year to date as 41 new firms were tallied in August. This figure is 11% lower than last year's similar total for the area, compared to a 16% gain in statewide tallies. Great Falls is the only area in the state to show a decline in new business formation for the year, but care should be taken to interpret this statistic only in conjunction with other economic indicators.

Construction activity continues in the area despite delays from recent heavy rains. A bridge contract for a major in-city thoroughfare was awarded for $5.2 million. Development is occuring rapidly in a northside industrial park. Reports indicate that 14 businesses are committed to building in the park with five already completed and in operation.

The major east-west airline serving the city has resumed service following the settlement of a three-month long labor dispute. Full service and schedules are being gradually restored, but the impact in lost income is being estimated in millions of dollars statewide.

Agricultural activity levels are high, as the harvest rapidly moves toward completion and fall field preparation begins. A major hailstorm caused large crop losses throughout a large area south of Great Falls. The local job service office reports some shortages of farm workers, but for the most part supply of labor is meeting demand.

BILLINGS SMSA (Yellowstone County)

Employment and Unemployment Situation:

Both civilian labor force and employment fell slightly from last month and last year in the Billings SMSA; however, unemployment also was lower. Labor force stood at 51,300, a 5.5% drop from August 1977's figure of 54,300, and down 900 from last month's 52,200. Of the total labor force, 49,100 were employed this month, 700 less than last month as the back-to-school trend starts, but also a 5.4% drop from the 51,900 working a year ago.

Last month and last year both, there were 2,400 individuals unemployed, 200 more than this August's 2,200. The unemployment rate also has been steadily less during the summer, declining from 5.2% in June, and 4.5% in July to 4.3% in August. A smaller change was noted from last year's 4.4%. These are the peak months for employment in Montana so the unemployment will start a gradual rise. However, the Billings area continues to show a very favorable economic picture with one of the lower unemployment rates in the state.

Economic Highlights and Employment Outlook:

Many construction projects are being planned or are in various stages of completion in the Billings SMSA. One large project, a 160 room hotel to be located near the airport on the Rims, depends on results of a feasibility study and approval by the city council. Medical clinics in both Billings and Laurel are planning construction or expansion. In the area, construction of new facilities include a truck service plant in West Billings, a new church, mini-warehouse buildings, horse trailer shop, an executive office building, a west end area pancake house, and a major grocery chain store in Laurel. A discount department store, which will employ 35 to 40 workers, is expected to start building in early 1979. In addition, several businesses are expanding their floor space, with some need for additional employees. Building permits issued in August include 76 small residences and 3 multi-family buildings with 113 units. The total of 168 permits for August 1978 is down from last year's 202; however, January through August 1978 tallied 1,290 compared with 1,242 for the same time in 1977.

Hiring is now taking place for several new businesses about to open. A department store will have 85 workers to start and expand to about 150. The Job Service offices have been screening prospective employees for this store and also for a grocery/drug complex needing 82 workers. Fast food restaurants and a family owned jewelry store, have opened in Billings and Laurel, and an art and frame supply wholesaler with 5 employees, to be increased to 15, is new in Billings. There were 101 new businesses started in the Billings SMSA in August 1978 and 612 for the year-to-date. August 1977 had 96 new firms while the January through August 1977 total was 505.

Plans are underway to open a mine at Bearcreek this fall with 15 workers when production starts. Daytime workers are needed at many retail firms, especially fast food services, to replace students returning to school. The railroad shops in Laurel started a 24-hour operation, resulting in the hiring of 70 additional workers. Employment is improving in this area, with the new construction, retail and service stores opening, and mining and railroading expanding, all creating a demand for new employees. The Young Adult Conservation Corps has been providing temporary employment and job counseling for about 200 area youth since the federally funded project started about a year ago.

The agricultural sector of the labor force has been occupied with haying and harvest of grain, both of which are nearly finished. Sugar beet harvest will start soon, and ranchers will be looking toward selling some livestock. Approximately $7.5 million worth of cattle were sold in a video auction by a local salesyard. From now on until spring there will be less demand for farm workers with the exception of year-round couples.

ANACONDA-BUTTE LMA

Employment and Unemployment Situation:

The economy of the area showed continued improvement but still has relatively high unemployment. The jobless rate is at 7.5% for August, a notable drop from July's 8.6% rate but at the same level as August of 1977. The number of unemployed individuals is at 2,800 down 300 from last month.

The bright spot in the LMA labor force statistics is in the civilian labor force and employment figures. The civilian labor force is 5.6% larger than it was last August at a level of 38,000. This is also a gain of 1,900 individuals since the July calculation. Employment was up by 1,700 for the month to a 35,200 figure. The growth in employment has been 5.7% compared to the August 1977 levels. The statistics indicate an expanding labor force and growing employment, but concurrently show a persistent problem of high unemployment in the area.

Economic Highlights and Employment Outlook:

Proposed new construction, additions, and renovation projects highlight the Butte area economy. An announcement was made of a $5 million addition to an existing shopping center to include 3 major department stores and 47 smaller businesses. Another major project planned is a $3.8 million, 110 room motel-health spa complex, while yet another announcement mentioned a supper club and lounge to be located in a remodeled facility in uptown Butte.

Reports indicate that approximately $10 million in public works projects are underway, most of them being federally funded. The largest project is an E.P.A. funded renovation of the sewer plant. Private construction in the area has concentrated on housing with a survey indicating that more than 100 residences are needed in Butte, and 35 are underway in Dillon.

A negative note must be made of the possible shut down of a transcontinental railroad in the area. The adverse effect would be felt mostly in the Deer Lodge area where many employees are located. The possibility of selling the portion of the railroad west of Butte to another carrier does exist but even if it is purchased employment levels would be effected.

Retail sales in the LMA are up according to area merchants and new businesses took a healthy jump during August as 50 new firms were formed during the month. The year to date total of new business formations is running about 19% ahead of last year's pace.

Activities are continuing in the agricultural industry including haying, harvesting, irrigating, and fencing. Local job service offices have noted shortages of experienced ranch workers, especially those with mechanical skills relating to farm machinery.

BOZEMAN LMA

Employment and Unemployment Situation:

Civilian labor force and employment both continued to show steady growth from last year, but leveled off with little change from last month. The labor force increased 16.4% from last year's 25,600 to the 29,800 tally this August; however, this is 100 fewer persons listed than July's 29,900. In August 1977 24,600 people were employed, 17.1% less than this month's tally of 28,800, which was the same as the figure for last month.

The number of unemployed showed little change from last month or last year, standing at 1,000 for both August 1978 and August 1977, and 100 fewer than the 1,100 last month. The unemployment rate, one of the lower in the state, fell to 3.2% from the 3.7% calculated for July and 4.0% last August. The growth experienced during the past year has slowed some what during the summer; however, this area shows indications of being one of the more promising in the state.

Economic Highlights and Employment Outlook

The economic situation in the Bozeman labor market area reflects the normal seasonal changes. Back-to-school buying has stimulated the retail trade industry, while students leaving jobs has created a demand for workers, particularly in the resort areas, in restaurants, service stations and retail stores. Lack of funding at the university has resulted in layoffs in the food service department, but other school employees will be returning to work.

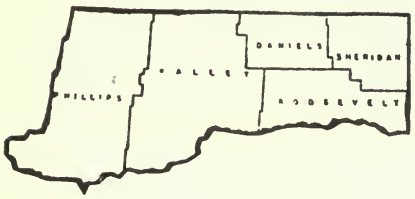
The large shopping center in Bozeman has received approval of a long-term loan and construction is expected to begin in September. Four department stores have signed and about 75% of the total small store space is leased. Opening is planned for March and May 1979. Some slowdown in home construction continues due to tighter financing; however, there were 41 building permits issued in Bozeman and Gallatin county in August, with 10 new houses and 4 multi-unit dwellings, compared with 30 in August last year. Shortage of concrete has been a problem for some small projects, causing some layoffs of workers.

In the Three Forks area, track maintenance crews have been notified of an impending layoff due to financial problems of the railroad. The work stoppage at the lumber company in Livingston, which lasted over a month has been settled, with 28 employees back to work. Some temporary layoffs have been noted due to weather changes.

The computer firm, in Bozeman since 1969, is now providing more diversified services, as well as manufacturing computers expecially designed for various businesses. Six full-time engineers and seven part time sales and production workers are employed. More than twice as many new business firms were started in this labor market area in August as were in August a year ago, 77 and 36 respectively. Gallatin county totaled 63, Park 13 and Meagher 1. Total for the year January through August is 409 compared with 312 for the same period in 1977.

In the agricultural sector, weather has been a factor, favorable for harvesting the first part of the period but with rain and cold later. Small grain yields have been good and there was some call for grain truck drivers and machine operators. Second cutting of alfalfa was proceeding also until some of the last was stopped by the rain. During this period there were orders for a dairy farm couple and a general farm and ranch couple from the Bozeman Job Service Office.

GLASGOW LMA



Employment and Unemployment Situation:

Labor force statistics for August in this area showed little change from last month but continue to be lower than a year ago. The labor force figure was 19,200 last year, 7.8% more than the 17,800 counted this month. Employment also fell from 18,200 last August to 17,100 for the current month, a 6.0% drop. The trend this summer shows a slight improvement, the labor force growing from 17,500 in June to 17,800 for both July and August, and employment rising from 16,600 in June, 16,900 in July to 17,100 this month.

Unemployment figures are more favorable both from a year ago and from last month, with a decline of 400 persons noted from last year's 1,100 to this month's 700. In June and July 900 individuals were listed as unemployed, but by August only 700 were still on rolls. The rate ofr the month was also considerable lower at 4.2% than last year's 5.5% and July's 5.2%. The overall picture remains much the same as last month, the negative aspect of the reduced labor force being offset by the fact that fewer people were unemployed.

Economic Highlights and Employment Outlook:

In the Glasgow Labor Market Area 20 new businesses were started in August, including 8 in Roosevelt County and 7 in Valley County, which compares favorably with the 17 new businesses in August 1977. Total for January through August this year, was 102, with 97 for the same period in 1977, indicating that this area appears to be stable with a slow growth trend. Retail and service establishments in both Wolf Point and Glasgow are doing a good volume of business with school approaching, and will be hiring replacements for students. Labor demand exceeds the supply of workers in the area at this time.

The construction industry has been keeping qualified workers employed, except during occasional periods of heavy rain. Six miles of Highway 2 will be built near Glasgow, starting in September, but the BIA Roads Department has depleted it's funds and will lay off approximately 40 of their 50 employees until spring, in the Wolf Point area. Some black topping jobs to repair streets in Glasgow have started, but building projects are providing most of the employment. An apartment house, a church, private residences, and farm buildings are all underway. Wolf Point has three building permits in August, a garage, a house, and a house remodeling, and Malta had eight with a valuation of $201,500. which includes two residences, two duplexes, a garage and an addition to a bowling alley.

The Bentonite Plant near Malta is being renovated, but the construction has been slowed by some informational picketing. Renovation of the Bentonite Plant south of Glasgow is continuing and mining is expected to begin in October. Oil and gas exploration is increasing with drilling near Malta and Seco, and seismographing in northern Valley County. Some hiring of railroad workers was noted in the Wolf Point area, but heavy rain slowed the demand.

Agricultural activity has been adversely affected by heavy rains at times, but harvesting of grain is nearly completed, as is haying. This will slow the demand for experienced harvest and hay hands, but there appears to be a continuing need for general farm and ranch workers.

GLENDIVE LMA

Employment and Unemployment Situation:

The labor force statistics for the Glendive LMA seem to verify the stability of the area's economy as they indicate only slight changes when compared to last month or August of 1977. The civilian labor force now stands at 15,600; down 100 from the July figure and a 1.3% drop from last August's calculation. The employment statistic, in contrast, grew by 200 to a level of 15,200 persons during August, very consistent with the 15,300 figure for August of 1977.

The jobless rate in the area is now calculated at 2.8%, a decrease from July's figure of 3.4%. This rate is the lowest for any area in the state and compares favorably with the statewide rate of 5.2%. This rate is even lower than last August's 3.1% for the LMA.

Economic Highlights and Employment Outlook:

The area's economic activity continues to be dominated by agricultural interests as is normal for this time of year. Harvesting of most crops is ending and planting of winter wheat has begun. The sugar beet harvest should commence soon with the Sidney processing facility scheduled to begin receiving by the last week of September. Demand has been noted for experienced farmhands in the area and also laborers to work in the sugar beet facility. Recent heavy rains have ended with a return to normal fall weather anticipated.

Railroads were prominent in two recent developments in the area. The impending bankruptcy and possible shutdown of one transcontinental railroad may affect employment and the tax base in the counties it traverses. In a positive vein, another railroad has formed a resource company to develop lignite coal reserves near Circle. The new company is expected to open mining operations and develop long term contracts for the coal reserves.

Construction activities are humming along as the season rapidly draws to its end. In Sidney a new restaurant is nearing completion, while the first floor of a high rise retirement home is up. The demand for housing in Glendive appears to be slowing but substantial activity still exists.

New business tallies for the LMA are 30% above last year's figure, although the August total of 20 is only slightly above last August's 19. Richland County has made a notable 57% gain over last year's new business figure, as 85 new firms have been formed in the county since January 1st.

HARDIN-RED LODGE LMA

Employment and Unemployent Situation:

The civilian labor force for the four county area rose by 700 during August to a level of 13,800 persons. Employment rose by a similar 700 and now stands at 13,200, a 2.3% gain over last August's figure of 12,900.

The expanding numbers are a seasonal occurence in conjunction with the harvest time peak in the agricultural industry, the major industry in the LMA.

The number of jobless individuals stayed at a level of 600, but the corresponding growth in the civilian labor force and employment caused an improvement in the unemployment rate. The rate for August is 4.1% compared to 4.8% for July and 5.1% for August of 1977. Although the movements noted are small in magnitude, they do all seem to point toward improving labor force conditions in the Hardin-Red Lodge area.

Economic Highlights and Employment Outlook

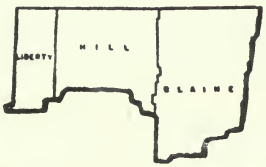
The tourist season is ending rapidly in Red Lodge as an early season snowstorm temporarily closed the highway into Yellowstone Park and dumped snow on the town itself. Concurrently, and with somewhat ironic timing, the ski area announced that snowmaking equipment will be in operation by November insuring a longer and more reliable season at the area. This announcement should help the town to attract a steady stream of winter visitors with predictable snow conditions virtually guaranteed.

New businesses in the LMA for the year number 107 a 45% gain over last year's figure of 74. The new firms are distributed throughout the area with all counties showing increases in the statistic.

Agriculture is one of the mainstay industries in the area and employment levels are high as the harvest season concludes for most crops. The sugar beet harvest should begin soon throughout the LMA.

Coal development continues to impact the area, especially Big Horn County and Hardin. These energy related developments should continue as Montana coal becomes an important fuel for the nation.

HAVRE LMA



Employment and Unemployment Situation:

The jobless rate for the LMA fell to 4.7% during August from the July rate of 5.2%. The rate is the same as that for last August (4.7%) although the number of unemployed individuals is now 600 as compared to 700 in August of 1977.

The civilian labor force numbers 13,400 a slight drop from last month's 13,600 but a more substantial 6.3% less than the figure for last August. Employment showed similar patterns as it now numbers 12,800, a decrease of 100 since July but 5.9% below last year's August calculation. The slight shrinkage of the labor force is not that ominous but certainly figures should be analyzed over a longer span to see if any trend is apparent. The improving unemployment rate probably tends to negate any adverse effects of the declining figures.

Economic Highlights and Employment Outlook:

The new $8 million shopping center facility in Havre is taking shape with the first store scheduled to open about November 1. When completed the facility will contain 43 businesses employing 500 to 600 people. Interviewing has already begun for some of the positions to be filled when the stores open. Several of the firms are

established merchants moving from downtown while others are new to the area.

The new business firm count for the LMA is just ahead of last year's pace, at 116 through August as compared to 114 at this time in 1977. Reports from the area indicate that wholesale and retail trade is good but stable when compared to last year.

Agricultural activity has passed its harvest time peak but should continue at high levels until winter sets in. Activities underway also include haying and seeding of winter wheat. The wheat crop in the area was not as good as expected in both quantity and quality. The protein content was noticeably lower causing lower prices and the yield per acre was less than last year.

Some oil exploration is continuing in the area and some demand has been noted for workers in this field. Exploration drilling should continue as long as good weather holds out, but will then cease for the winter.

HELENA LMA

Employment and Unemployment Situation:

The labor force statistics began to decline slightly from the seasonal peak but continue to show excellent growth when compared to the statistic derived one year ago. The civilian labor force dropped by 300 during August to a 28,100 level which is a 6.8% gain over last August's number of 26,300. Employment shows similar trends with a 7.7% increase over the past year to a current figure of 26,700. The loss of 100 employed persons during the past month was probably due to students returning to school and the termination of some jobs they filled.

The unemployment decreased by 200 during August and now stands at 1,400 individuals. This figure compares favorably with last year's August calculation of 1,500 jobless persons. The unemployment rate calculation is 4.9% for August, a drop from July's 5.5% and much below August's 5.7%.

Economic Highlights and Employment Outlook:

New business formations are up 12% for the first seven months of 1978 as compared with 1977's similar period. New firms totaled 41 in August to bring the year to date figure to 294.

Construction activity is progressing rapidly as contractors utilize the remaining good weather. Commercial construction includes a new bank, a new drive-in bank, and auto dealership, and several restaruants. Announcements indicate that a major regional shopping center may start construction before winter sets in. The groundbreaking was held recently for a $2 million fitness center to be erected just west of Helena. The new highway department complex is being used and the airport terminal is scheduled to open soon. The housing industry remains strong with construction of apartments, condominiums, and residences continuing.

The major east-west airline has resumed service after a lengthy labor dispute but full service has still not been initiated. An intrastate airline began serving Helena this month and the possibility of more carriers entering the area is still being mentioned.

The local job service office has noted some shortage situation, especially in the service and clerical areas. Specific occupations in demand include motel cleaners, food service workers, key punch operators, and clerk typists. State government hiring has been slow due to the "hiring freeze" in effect.

KALISPELL LMA

Employment and Unemployment Situation:

The total civilian labor force in the Kalispell labor market area has decreased over the summer but gained from a year ago, while employment has risen this summer and also since last year. This area has a good growth potential.

The labor force stands at 38,200 for the month compared with 38,400 in July, but up 12.4% from the August 1977 total of 34,000. A brighter note is the employment situation with 35,600 persons currently at work, compared with 35,400 in July and 31,100 last August.

The unemployment standing is also improving with 2,600 job seekers this month, down from 3,000 in July and 2,900 a year ago. Although the unemployment rate at 6.8% is still among the highest in the state, it too has improved over July's 7.9% and the 8.4% calculated in August 1977. As in the rest of the state, however, seasonality is a major factor in the economy.

Economic Highlights and Employment Outlook:

The busy summer season is drawing to a close but this three-county labor market area has more prospects of continuing employment than some other areas. Winter recreation, particularly in Flathead County, the aluminum plant, potato storage, Christmas tree harvest, and Libby Dam projects all contribute to potential all season work.

Construction projects are continuing although home building has slowed due to scarce money. In Whitefish the high school gym has been started as well as other projects in Flathead County, including a large grocery store. The new sawmill near Columbia Falls is expected to be finished in early spring 1979. Lake County has many ongoing projects, with a furniture store and warehouse food store in Polson, and a BIA Forestry Building and a nursing home in Ronan. In the Libby area of Lincoln County, 35 workers at the paper company are remodeling and installing new machinery to be finished in January. The $970,000 courthouse remodeling, employing 30 to 35 men, and the $1.2 million storm sewer system with 30 employees are progressing steadily. The many projects connected with Libby Dam provide continuing employment, but an injunction is expected to cause a layoff of workers on the re-regulating dam. Building permits issued in Kalispell during August totaled 45, including residences, a restaurant, a bank and a bowling alley.

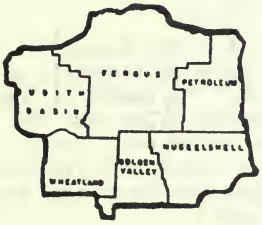
KALISPELL LMA (Cont.)

Lumber and logging have been steady all summer, with woods work showing more activity as the weather cools. In the Polson area, a beehive builder, and a wood burning stove manufacturer are stepping up production.

New business firms started in the Kalispell LMA totalled 83 in August compared with 51 in August last year. For the period January through August, 489 new businesses were recorded in 1978, compared with 395 in 1977. The increase of new firms started this year indicates a growing economy, but this factor should only be considered as part of the total economic picture. Some slow-down of retail and service industries was noted towards the end of the period as the tourist season draws to a close; however, a grocery-gas store will open in Polson, and there is demand for food service and sales workers throughout the area.

Demand for workers in the agricultural sector continues, for irrigating and general farm work. Potato field work and the upcoming harvest will keep many persons occupied. Second cutting of hay is well underway, with some curtailing of all activities by rain and cool weather late in the period. Tree plantations are hiring and this should increase as Christmas tree harvest approaches.

LEWISTOWN LMA



Employment and Unemployment Situation:

The labor force in the Lewistown LMA remains fairly stable, with labor force statistics showing a drop from last year but with little change from last month. A 7.3% drop was noted in the labor force from August 1977 at 12,300 to this year's 11,400, with a corresponding 6.8% drop in employed persons this month to 11,000 from the 11,800 calculated last August. Total labor force was unchanged from last month, but employment increased 200 from the 10,800 noted in July.

The unemployment rate of 3.9% for August is one of the lower in the state, and is down from the 5.1% calculated in July, but with no change from August a year ago. Only 400 individuals were unemployed this month, 100 less than last year's 500, and 200 fewer than the 600 counted in July.

Economic Highlights and Employment Outlook:

The bankruptcy of a railroad serving this area is a matter of much concern. Most of the grain shipped has customarily gone by rail. Employees have been offered transfers to other divisions, and another major railroad which has interchange tracks at several points could possibly provide service to some of the abandoned stations, but there have been no decisions made at this time.

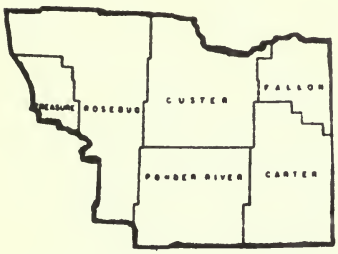
Harvesting of grain is in the last stages, but there is still some demand for workers to harvest, and to seed and fence. Livestock handlers may be needed in preparation for fall sales. During the latter part of grain cutting, heavy cold rains slowed the work and lessened the demand for farm and ranch hands.

Some new construction is beginning which should provide employment until cold weather halts outside work. A new Bureau of Land Management building and a quick service grocery store were started this month, and work on a new bank, an addition to a motel, several new homes, and some business remodeling are all proceeding on schedule.

Some strip mining has been started at a local sapphire mine which had been inactive for some time. With students returning to school, some opening for retail sales and service workers has been noted. An increase in sales due to back-to-school buying has boosted the economy in the retail sectors in this six-county labor market area.

Twelve new business firms have been started in the area this month, with some in all but smaller counties. Last year in August, there were 9, and for the eight-month total January through August, 83 were counted this year, with 79 last year. The Lewistown LMA continues on a stable course, with no great growth pattern, but with comparatively low unemployment. It is too soon to tell how much the railroad problem will affect the economy.

MILES CITY LMA



Employment and Unemployment Situation:

The consistent, stable nature of the Miles City LMA economy continued to be obvious in the labor force statistics for August. The civilian labor force stayed at the June and July level of 15,700 while the employed portion increased by only 100 to 15,100. These figures do show some contraction of the labor force since last August as the civilian labor force is down by 4.3% while employment is 4.4% smaller.

The jobless rate for the area is 4.0% for August, a drop from July's 4.5% but not quite as favorable as last August's calculation of 3.8%. The number of unemployed persons is at 600, a decrease of 100 over the past month and the same level as a year ago. The slight movements occurring have all been positive over the past month as the LMA continues to be an area with a stable economy and low unemployment.

Economic Highlights and Employment Outlook:

The major economic news in the area is the impending bankruptcy of a transcontinential railroad and the impact on 125 -- 135 employees in Miles City. Discussions have mentioned the possibility of the shutdown of the line and various alternatives to keep it running including sale to another firm or employee ownership. The trustees of the receivership the railroad is in, claim that it is just not profitable to operate, so some decision must be made.

In the positive vein, an announcement was made of the location of a railroad car repair facility in Miles City. The $800,000 facility will employ 45 - 50 persons when it reaches full operation. In another railroad development, plans for a line to Birney were announced, with the shipment of coal via the route expected to begin in late 1982 if the present schedule is kept.

New businesses in the LMA number 108 for the first seven months of 1978, as 18 were established in August. The figure is 11% above last year's comparable rate, but it is interesting to note that activity appears to be picking up in the outlying areas as the Miles City (Custer County) figure is lower than last year's tally.

Agricultural activity continues but should be winding down as the harvest concludes. Recent rains have slowed some activity but normal fall weather seems to have returned.

Shortages of workers in the retail trade and service industries have been noted by local job service personnel. Particular demand has occurred for restaurant and hotel workers, and casual laborers.

MISSOULA LMA

Employment and Unemployment Situation:

Improvements continued to be in evidence in the labor force figures for the Missoula area, even though the seasonal peaks were reached in July's statistics. The civilian labor force is at 52,700 an 800 person decrease from July but 11.7% higher than last August. An even better gain of 13.5% has occurred in the employment figure since August of 1977, as it is at a 49,700 level.

This declining labor force and relatively consistent employment figure combine to produce notable gains in the unemployment rate and the number of unemployed individuals. The rate is now at a favorable 5.8% when compared to the calculations of 6.7% for July, 7.8% for June, and 7.3% for August of 1977. Unemployment dropped by 600 during the month to 3,000 which is also lower than last August's figure of 3,400. These statistics indicate improving conditions for this LMA which has been plagued by high unemployment, but to keep the figures in perspective it should be noted that the area's unemployment rate of 5.8% still exceeds the state wide average.

Economic Highlights and Employment Outlook:

Building permits for the Missoula area are running at about the same level as last year. Commercial and multi-family dwelling starts are down, but residential construction is about the same. High interest rates are slowing some housing construction but large developers are still able to secure funds. Some slowdown has been expected in housing starts but has not materialized.

The lumber and wood products industry is experiencing a very good year. One local plant has lengthened its shifts while another is in the midst of a multi-million dollar expansion project. The industry is extremely variable; however, based on national building trends. As the prime basic industry in the area, as lumber and wood products go, so goes the Missoula economy.

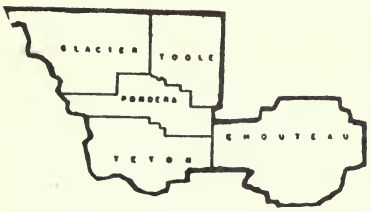
The pending bankruptcy of a transcontinental railroad may have some effect on the area but current reports indicate that this portion of the line may be sold to another firm. Some employees were laid off earlier in the period but have since been rehired by the railroad.

Missoula LMA (cont.)

The Hamilton area economy looks good as the peak season comes to a close. Numerous buildings are nearing completion as is a street paving project. The plastics company has initiated interviews and hiring as it gears up for production. A shortage of restaurant workers has been noted as students return to school from summer jobs.

New business formations were 101 for the month of August, bringing the year to date figure to 599 or 79 more than at the same time last year. The gain is about 15% and is evident throughout the LMA, not just in Missoula itself.

SHELBY-CUT BANK LMA



Employment and Unemployment Situation:

Labor force and employment statistics increased again this month as the agrarian economy of the LMA reached its seasonal peak in activity. The civilian labor force now tallies 20,300 individuals, a 200 person increase in the past month and slightly larger than the 20,000 recorded last August. Employment is at 19,200; a gain of 200 over the past month and 300 above last August's level.

The number of jobless persons is at 1,100; the same figure as in July and the same as in August of 1977. The unemployment rate is calculated to be 5.5%, a small drop from last month's 5.6% but slightly higher than August of 1977's 5.3%. The labor force statistic denote a stable economy at its apex in August as the harvest season comes to the area, but the jobless rate is a bit higher than last year and above the statewide rates.

Economic Highlights and Employment Outlook:

The new business tally for 1978 has reached 173 for the year with the establishment of 18 new firms in August. Glacier County shows an even higher 57% increase in new business formations for the year. This is an excellent sign but should, of course, be evaluated in combination with other economic indicators before any predictatory conclusions are reached.

Construction should commence this month on a 16 store shopping center in Cut Bank. The facility is scheduled to open next spring and leases have been signed for most of the space available. Nearing completion are a grain elevator, a civic center, and a senior citizens center. The activity in construction projects has created a demand for carpenters and general laborers in the area.

Agricultural activities have been interrupted by some heavy rains but the harvest and other activities are moving toward their seasonal conclusion. Oilfield exploration has also been slowed by the weather but hiring is taking place when conditions are favorable.

Retail and service establishments have noted recent gains coinciding with the back to school buying surge and the peak of the tourist season, respectively.

MANPOWER PROGRAM ACTIVITIES

AUGUST 1978

Program	New Enrollees	Job Placements	End of Month Enrollment
WIN	238	98	2109
CETA-CEP	68	67	213
CETA-INST.	11	44	187
CETA-OJT	30	58	167
JOB CORPS	47	38	376
PSE TITLE II	41	19	272
PSE TITLE VI	114	44	774
PSE TITLE VI-A	118	51	724
CETA - AWE	42	37	102
STIP	--	2	13
HIRE II	55	6	61

CONSUMER PRICE INDEX - U. S.[1/]

(1967 = 100)

Group	JULY 1978	*Percent Change From:* JUNE 1978	JULY 1977
All Items	196.7	*.7*	*7.7*

CHARACTERISTICS OF THE UNEMPLOYED

AUGUST 1978

Social Characteristics	*Percent of Total Covered Unemployment*
Non-White	*13.3*
Female	*54.3*
Youth	*8.9*
Over 45	*21.9*

1/ The Consumer Price Index measures changes in prices of goods and services bought by urban wage earners and clerical workers, including families and single persons.

CURRENT POPULATION SURVEY DATA

Table I

RESIDENCE DATA

MONTANA CIVILIAN LABOR FORCE

NOT SEASONALLY ADJUSTED

(in Thousands)

Date	Civilian Labor Force	EMPLOYMENT			UNEMPLOYMENT			Labor Management Dispute 2/
		Total	Non-Ag	Agri.	Total	Percent 1/ Montana	Percent 1/ U. S.	
1976								
January	307.5	283.1	262.2	20.9	24.4	*7.9*	*8.8*	*
February	309.0	286.1	263.0	23.1	22.9	*7.4*	*8.7*	*
March	317.0	294.2	266.1	28.1	22.8	*7.2*	*8.1*	*
April	325.9	306.8	271.8	35.0	19.1	*5.9*	*7.4*	*
May	329.6	313.0	276.7	36.3	16.6	*5.0*	*6.7*	*
June	345.5	324.2	282.5	41.7	21.3	*6.2*	*8.0*	.1
July	354.4	334.8	289.9	44.9	19.6	*5.5*	*7.8*	.1
August	357.4	338.6	290.2	48.4	18.8	*5.3*	*7.6*	.1
September	344.7	327.9	289.9	38.0	16.8	*4.9*	*7.4*	.1
October	333.8	316.9	284.4	32.5	16.9	*5.1*	*7.2*	.1
November	331.2	311.8	283.6	28.2	19.4	*5.9*	*7.4*	.1
December	328.1	306.7	282.3	24.4	21.4	*6.5*	*7.4*	.1
1976 Avg.	332.0	312.0	278.6	33.4	20.0	*6.1*	*7.7*	.1
1977								
January	316.7	291.7	269.1	22.6	25.0	*7.9*	*8.3*	.1
February	320.3	294.9	270.1	24.8	25.4	*7.9*	*8.5*	.1
March	328.4	303.0	273.1	29.9	25.4	*7.7*	*7.9*	.1
April	336.5	313.9	276.9	37.0	22.6	*6.7*	*6.9*	.1
May	340.4	319.8	281.6	38.2	20.6	*6.1*	*6.4*	.1
June	356.1	333.6	290.1	43.5	22.5	*6.3*	*7.5*	.2
July	364.4	342.4	295.9	46.5	22.0	*6.0*	*7.0*	3.3
August	371.4	350.2	300.4	49.8	21.2	*5.7*	*6.8*	.2
September	355.7	336.3	297.5	38.8	19.4	*5.5*	*6.6*	.1
October	346.0	327.2	294.2	33.0	18.8	*5.4*	*6.3*	.5
November	342.1	321.7	293.3	28.4	20.4	*6.0*	*6.4*	.1
December	337.9	317.1	292.7	24.4	20.8	*6.1*	*6.0*	.2
1977 Avg.	343.0	321.0	286.3	34.7	22.0	*6.4*	*7.0*	.4
1978								
January	332.1	305.2	282.7	22.5	26.9	*8.1*	*7.0*	.2
February	341.3	311.3	286.8	24.5	30.0	*8.8*	*6.9*	.2
March	350.6	321.6	292.2	29.4	29.0	*8.3*	*6.6*	*
April	358.1	334.9	299.9	35.0	23.2	*6.5*	*5.8*	*
May	351.7	341.1	305.1	36.0	20.6	*5.7*	*5.5*	*
June	379.3	354.3	313.2	41.1	25.0	*6.6*	*6.2*	*.4*
July	381.2	356.8	314.8	44.0	22.4	*5.9*	*6.3*	*.2*
August	380.7	360.9	313.9	47.0	*19.8*	*5.2*	*5.8*	*.1*
September	*371.2*	*352.4*	*315.7*	*36.7*	*18.8*	*5.1*		*.1*
October								
November								
December								
Avg.								

1/ *Computed from whole (unrounded) numbers.* *Series began January 1970.*

2/ *Non-additive - included in total employment.* *Revised to 1977 Benchmarks.*

* *Under 50.* *Current month in italics is a forecast; previous month preliminary.*

RESIDENCE DATA

Table II

GREAT FALLS SMSA (CASCADE COUNTY)

Civilian Labor Force

NOT SEASONALLY ADJUSTED

(in Thousands)

CURRENT POPULATION SURVEY DATA

Date	Civilian Labor Force	EMPLOYMENT			UNEMPLOYMENT			Labor Management Dispute 2/
		Total	Non-Ag	Agri.	Total	Percent 1/ County	Percent 1/ State	
1976								
January	29.5	27.2	26.4	.8	2.3	*7.9*	*7.9*	*
February	29.7	27.5	26.6	.9	2.2	*7.3*	*7.4*	*
March	30.8	28.5	27.4	1.1	2.3	*7.3*	*7.2*	*
April	30.8	28.9	27.5	1.4	1.9	*6.2*	*5.9*	*
May	31.1	29.3	27.9	1.4	1.8	*5.6*	*5.0*	*
June	32.4	30.0	28.4	1.6	2.4	*7.5*	*6.2*	*
July	32.6	30.5	28.7	1.8	2.1	*6.6*	*5.5*	*
August	32.8	30.8	28.9	1.9	2.0	*6.0*	*5.3*	*
September	31.8	30.1	28.6	1.5	1.7	*5.3*	*4.9*	*
October	31.9	30.1	28.8	1.3	1.8	*5.6*	*5.1*	*
November	32.0	30.1	29.0	1.1	1.9	*6.0*	*5.9*	*
December	30.2	28.3	27.3	1.0	1.9	*6.3*	*6.5*	*
1976 Avg.	31.3	29.3	28.0	1.3	2.0	*6.5*	*6.1*	*
1977								
January	31.8	29.7	28.8	.9	2.1	*6.6*	*7.9*	*
February	32.9	30.9	29.9	1.0	2.0	*6.1*	*7.9*	*
March	33.5	31.3	30.1	1.2	2.2	*6.5*	*7.7*	*
April	34.5	32.6	31.1	1.5	1.9	*5.4*	*6.7*	*
May	34.7	32.8	31.3	1.5	1.9	*5.5*	*6.1*	*
June	36.0	33.9	32.2	1.7	2.1	*5.9*	*6.3*	*
July	35.8	33.8	32.0	1.8	2.0	*5.6*	*6.0*	.8
August	36.4	34.2	32.2	2.0	2.2	*6.1*	*5.7*	*
September	35.6	33.4	31.9	1.5	2.2	*6.2*	*5.5*	*
October	36.0	33.8	32.5	1.3	2.2	*6.1*	*5.4*	.4
November	35.4	33.4	32.3	1.1	2.0	*5.7*	*6.0*	*
December	35.0	32.8	31.8	1.0	2.2	*6.2*	*6.1*	*
1977 Avg.	34.8	32.7	31.3	1.4	2.1	*6.0*	*6.4*	.1
1978								
January	35.3	32.6	31.7	.9	2.7	*7.8*	*8.1*	*
February	36.2	32.8	31.8	1.0	3.4	*9.3*	*8.8*	*
March	35.3	32.4	31.2	1.2	2.9	*8.0*	*8.3*	*
April	35.0	32.9	31.5	1.4	2.1	*6.1*	*6.5*	*
May	35.1	33.0	31.6	1.4	2.1	*6.0*	*5.7*	*
June	36.4	33.5	31.9	1.6	2.9	*7.9*	*6.6*	*
July	35.1	32.7	31.0	1.7	2.4	*6.9*	*5.9*	*
August	34.7	32.5	30.6	*1.9*	*2.2*	*6.4*	*5.2*	*
September	*34.6*	*32.4*	*31.0*	*1.4*	*2.2*	*6.4*	*5.1*	*
October								
November								
December								
Avg.								

1/ *Computed from whole (unrounded) numbers.*

2/ *Non-additive - included in total employment.*

* *Under 50.*

Series began January 1970.

Revised to 1977 Benchmarks.

Current month in italics is a forecast; previous month preliminary.

CURRENT POPULATION SURVEY DATA

Table III

BILLINGS SMSA (YELLOWSTONE COUNTY)

Civilian Labor Force

NOT SEASONALLY ADJUSTED

(in Thousands)

RESIDENCE DATA

Date	Civilian Labor Force	EMPLOYMENT			UNEMPLOYMENT			Labor Management Disputes 2/
		Total	Non-Ag	Agri.	Total	Percent 1/ County	Percent 1/ State	
1976								
January	44.6	41.8	40.8	1.0	2.8	*6.2*	*7.9*	*
February	44.7	42.3	41.2	1.1	2.4	*5.4*	*7.4*	*
March	45.3	42.8	41.5	1.3	2.5	*5.6*	*7.2*	*
April	47.1	45.0	43.4	1.6	2.1	*4.5*	*5.9*	*
May	46.6	44.9	43.2	1.7	1.7	*3.7*	*5.0*	*
June	48.6	46.0	44.1	1.9	2.6	*5.4*	*6.2*	*
July	49.4	47.0	44.9	2.1	2.4	*4.8*	*5.5*	*
August	49.0	46.8	44.6	2.2	2.2	*4.4*	*5.3*	*
September	49.6	47.7	46.0	1.7	1.9	*3.9*	*4.9*	*
October	48.9	47.0	45.5	1.5	1.9	*3.9*	*5.1*	*
November	49.0	46.9	45.6	1.3	2.1	*4.3*	*5.9*	*
December	49.4	46.9	45.8	1.1	2.5	*5.0*	*6.5*	*
1976 Avg.	47.7	45.4	43.9	1.5	2.3	*4.8*	*6.1*	*
1977								
January	48.9	46.3	45.3	1.0	2.6	*5.4*	*7.9*	*
February	50.6	47.8	46.7	1.1	2.8	*5.5*	*7.9*	*
March	51.2	48.5	47.1	1.4	2.7	*5.2*	*7.7*	*
April	52.1	49.8	48.1	1.7	2.3	*4.4*	*6.7*	*
May	52.0	49.7	47.9	1.8	2.3	*4.5*	*6.1*	*
June	52.7	50.4	48.4	2.0	2.3	*4.4*	*6.3*	*
July	53.1	50.9	48.8	2.1	2.2	*4.1*	*6.0*	.1
August	54.3	51.9	49.6	2.3	2.4	*4.4*	*5.7*	.1
September	53.9	51.5	49.7	1.8	2.4	*4.4*	*5.5*	.1
October	53.6	51.3	49.8	1.5	2.3	*4.3*	*5.4*	.1
November	53.8	51.5	50.2	1.3	2.3	*4.2*	*6.0*	.1
December	52.9	50.6	49.5	1.1	2.3	*4.3*	*6.1*	.1
1977 Avg.	52.4	50.0	48.4	1.6	2.4	*4.6*	*6.4*	*
1978								
January	51.9	48.8	47.8	1.0	3.1	*6.0*	*8.1*	.1
February	53.8	50.2	49.1	1.1	3.6	*6.7*	*8.8*	.1
March	52.6	49.1	47.8	1.3	3.5	*6.7*	*8.3*	*
April	52.7	50.3	48.7	1.6	2.4	*4.6*	*6.5*	*
May	52.6	50.3	48.6	1.7	2.3	*4.3*	*5.7*	*
June	52.6	49.8	47.9	1.9	2.8	*5.2*	*6.6*	*
July	52.2	49.8	47.8	2.0	2.4	*4.5*	*5.9*	*
August	51.3	49.1	46.9	*2.2*	*2.2*	*4.3*	*5.2*	*
September	*51.8*	*49.7*	*48.0*	*1.7*	*2.1*	*4.1*	*5.1*	*
October								
November								
December								
Avg.								

1/ *Computed from whole (unrounded) numbers.* *Series began January 1970.*

2/ *Non-additive - included in total employment.* *Revised to 1977 Benchmarks.*

* *Under 50.* *Current month in italics is a forecast; previous month preliminary.*

RESIDENCE DATA
(ESTABLISHMENT DATA in italics)

Table IV

MONTANA

Statewide Employment by Industry

August 1978

in Thousands

INDUSTRY	August 1978	July 1978	August 1977	Net Changes to Current Month from: July 1978	Net Changes to Current Month from: August 1977
CIVILIAN LABOR FORCE - PERSONS[1]	380.7	381.2	371.4	-.5	9.3
EMPLOYED PERSONS	360.9	358.8	350.2	2.1	10.7
Persons Employed in Agriculture	47.0	44.0	49.8	3.0	-2.8
UNEMPLOYED PERSONS	19.8	22.4	21.2	-2.6	-1.4
Percent of Labor Force, Unadjusted[2]	*5.2*	*5.9*	*5.7*	*-.7*	*-.5*
Percent of Labor Force, Seasonally Adjusted[2]	*6.0*	*6.4*	*6.6*	*-.4*	*-.6*
NON-FARM WAGE AND SALARY JOBS (Establishment Data)	*277.8*	*277.3*	*276.9*	*+.5*	*+.9*
MANUFACTURING	*25.3*	*25.0*	*24.8*	*+.3*	*+.5*
Durable Goods	*16.4*	*16.4*	*16.0*	*0*	*+.4*
24 Lumber and Wood Products	*9.5*	*9.5*	*9.8*	*0*	*-.3*
33 Primary Metal Industries	*3.5*	*3.5*	*3.0*	*0*	*+.5*
Other Durable Goods	*3.4*	*3.4*	*3.2*	*0*	*+.2*
Nondurable Goods	*8.9*	*8.6*	*8.8*	*+.3*	*+.1*
20 Food and Kindred Products	*3.9*	*3.7*	*4.1*	*+.2*	*-.2*
27 Printing and Publishing	*2.1*	*2.2*	*2.0*	*-.1*	*+.1*
29 Petroleum and Coal Products	*1.2*	*1.1*	*1.2*	*+.1*	*0*
Other Nondurable Goods	*1.7*	*1.6*	*1.5*	*+.1*	*+.2*
MINING	*7.7*	*7.7*	*6.1*	*0*	*+1.6*
10 Metal Mining	*2.5*	*2.5*	*2.0*	*0*	*+.5*
12 & 14 Bitum. Coal, Quarrying, Non-Metal Mining	*1.9*	*1.8*	*1.4*	*+.1*	*+.5*
13 Oil and Gas Extraction	*3.3*	*3.4*	*2.7*	*-.1*	*+.6*

CONTRACT CONSTRUCTION	17.7	17.4	18.5	+.3	-.8
15 General Building Contractors	6.1	6.1	6.8	0	-.7
16 Heavy Construction Contractors	5.7	5.4	5.8	+.3	-.1
17 Special Trade Contractors	5.9	5.9	5.9	0	0
TRANSPORTATION AND PUBLIC UTILITIES	22.0	22.0	20.7	0	+1.3
40 Railroad Transportation	7.1	7.1	6.4	0	+.7
41-47 Transportation, except Railroad	6.2	6.2	6.1	0	+.1
48 & 49 Commun., Electric, Gas, Sanitary Services	8.7	8.7	8.2	0	+.5
WHOLESALE AND RETAIL TRADE	73.2	72.6	69.6	+.6	+3.6
Wholesale Trade	18.3	18.5	16.3	-.2	+2.0
Retail Trade	54.9	54.1	53.3	+.8	+1.6
53 & 56 General Merchandise, Apparel, Accessories	6.9	6.7	8.1	+.2	-1.2
54 Food Stores	7.9	7.8	7.3	+.1	+.6
55 Automotive Dealers, Service Stations	7.8	7.8	7.8	0	0
58 Eating and Drinking Places	20.9	20.4	20.9	+.5	0
52, 57, 59 Bldg. Mat., Farm Equip., Furn., Misc.	11.4	11.4	9.1	0	+2.2
FINANCE, INSURANCE AND REAL ESTATE	12.0	12.1	11.8	-.1	+.2
SERVICES	48.0	48.5	51.1	-.5	-3.1
70 Hotels and other Lodging Places	6.7	7.0	7.4	-.3	-.7
72 Personal Services	2.8	2.8	2.6	0	+.2
80 Medical and other Health Services	15.4	15.6	16.1	-.2	-.7
Other Services	23.1	23.1	25.0	0	-1.9
GOVERNMENT	71.9	72.0	74.3	-.1	-2.4
91 Federal Government	15.8	15.9	15.6	-.1	+.2
92 State Colleges and Universities	8.2	8.1	8.9	+.1	-.7
92 Other State Government	11.3	11.4	11.8	-.1	-.5
93 Local Education	21.1	21.1	22.8	0	-1.7
93 Other Local Government	15.5	15.5	15.2	0	+.3

1/ Estimates based on National Household Sample, Census and Other Relationships; includes self-employed, unpaid family, and domestic workers. Current month preliminary. Revised to 1976 Benchmarks.

2/ Computed from whole (unrounded) numbers.
Establishment Series began January 1964; Residence Series began January 1970.

RESIDENCE DATA
(ESTABLISHMENT DATA in italics)

Table V

GREAT FALLS SMSA (CASCADE COUNTY)

Employment by Industry

August 1978

in Thousands

INDUSTRY	August 1978	July 1978	August 1977	Net Changes to Current Month from: July 1978	August 1977
CIVILIAN LABOR FORCE - PERSONS[1]	34.7	35.1	36.4	-.4	-1.7
EMPLOYED PERSONS	32.5	32.7	34.2	-.2	-1.7
Persons Employed in Agriculture	1.9	1.7	2.0	.2	-.1
UNEMPLOYED PERSONS	2.2	2.4	2.2	-.2	0
Percent of Labor Force, Unadjusted[2]	*6.4*	*6.9*	*6.1*	*-.5*	*.3*
Percent of Labor Force, Seasonally Adjusted[2]	*6.8*	*6.9*	*6.5*	*-.1*	*.3*
NON-FARM WAGE AND SALARY JOBS (Establishment Data)	*30.1*	*30.3*	*30.2*	*-.2*	*-.1*
Manufacturing	*1.7*	*1.7*	*1.7*	*0*	*0*
Contract Construction	*2.1*	*2.1*	*2.2*	*0*	*-.1*
Transportation and Public Utilities	*1.9*	*1.9*	*1.8*	*0*	*+1*
Trade	*10.2*	*10.4*	*10.1*	*-.2*	*+.1*
Wholesale Trade	*3.0*	*3.1*	*2.7*	*-.1*	*+.3*
Retail Trade	*7.2*	*7.3*	*7.4*	*-.1*	*-.2*
Finance, Insurance and Real Estate	*1.9*	*1.9*	*1.9*	*0*	*0*
Services and Mining	*6.3*	*6.3*	*6.7*	*0*	*-.4*
Government	*6.0*	*6.0*	*5.8*	*0*	*+.2*
Federal Government	*2.3*	*2.3*	*2.2*	*0*	*+.1*
State and Local Government	*3.7*	*3.7*	*3.6*	*0*	*+.1*

1/ *Estimates based on National Household Sample, Census and Other Relationships; includes self-employed, unpaid family, and domestic workers.*

2/ *Computed from whole (unrounded) numbers.*

Current month preliminary. *Revised to 1976 Benchmarks.*

Table VI

BILLINGS SMSA (YELLOWSTONE COUNTY)

Employment by Industry

August 1978

in Thousands

INDUSTRY	August 1978	July 1978	August 1977	Net Change to Current Month from: July 1978	Net Change to Current Month from: August 1977
CIVILIAN LABOR FORCE - PERSONS[1]	51.3	52.2	54.3	-.9	-3.0
EMPLOYED PERSONS	49.1	49.8	51.9	-.7	-2.8
Persons Employed in Agriculture	2.2	2.0	2.3	.2	-.1
UNEMPLOYED PERSONS	2.2	2.4	2.4	-.2	-.2
Percent of Labor Force, Unadjusted[2]	*4.3*	*4.5*	*4.4*	-.2	-.1
Percent of Labor Force, Seasonally Adjusted[2]	*4.6*	*4.5*	*4.8*	.1	-.2
NON-FARM WAGE AND SALARY JOBS (Establishment Data)	*43.8*	*44.3*	*43.7*	-.5	+.1
Manufacturing	*3.6*	*3.6*	*3.6*	0	0
Contract Construction	*3.4*	*3.4*	*3.1*	0	+.3
Transportation and Public Utilities	*3.8*	*3.8*	*3.8*	0	0
Trade	*14.8*	*14.8*	*14.5*	0	+.3
Wholesale Trade	*5.6*	*5.6*	*5.1*	0	+.5
Retail Trade	*9.2*	*9.2*	*9.4*	0	-.2
Finance, Insurance and Real Estate	*2.2*	*2.2*	*2.1*	0	+.1
Services and Mining	*8.6*	*8.7*	*8.3*	-.1	+.3
Government	*7.4*	*7.8*	*8.3*	-.4	-.9
Federal Government	*1.5*	*1.5*	*2.0*	0	-.5
State and Local Government	*5.9*	*6.3*	*6.3*	-.4	-.4

1/ *Estimates based on National Household Sample, Census and Other Relationships; includes self-employed, unpaid family, and domestic workers.*

2/ *Computed from whole (unrounded) numbers.*

Current month preliminary. *Revised to 1976 Benchmarks.*

Table VII

MONTANA LABOR MARKET AREAS[1/]

Civilian Labor Force

in Thousands

CURRENT POPULATION SURVEY DATA

	CIVILIAN LABOR FORCE			EMPLOYMENT			UNEMPLOYMENT			UNEMPLOYMENT RATE		
	June 1978	July 1978	Aug. 1978	June 1978	July 1978	Aug. 1978	June 1978	July 1978	Aug. 1978	June 1978	July 1978	Aug. 1978
STATEWIDE	379.3	381.2	380.7	354.3	358.8	360.9	25.0	22.4	19.8	*6.6*	*5.9*	*5.2*
GREAT FALLS SMSA	36.4	35.1	34.7	33.5	32.7	32.5	2.9	2.4	2.2	*7.9*	*6.9*	*6.4*
BILLINGS SMSA	52.6	52.2	51.3	49.8	49.8	49.1	2.8	2.4	2.2	*5.2*	*4.5*	*4.3*
BALANCE OF STATE[2/]	290.3	293.9	294.7	271.0	276.3	279.3	19.3	17.6	15.4	*6.7*	*6.0*	*5.2*
ANACONDA-BUTTE	38.2	36.6	38.0	34.5	33.5	35.2	3.7	3.1	2.8	*9.8*	*8.6*	*7.5*
BOZEMAN	29.0	29.9	29.8	27.9	28.8	28.8	1.1	1.1	1.0	*3.8*	*3.7*	*3.2*
GLASGOW	17.5	17.8	17.8	16.6	16.9	17.1	.9	.9	.7	*5.4*	*5.2*	*4.2*
GLENDIVE	15.4	15.5	15.6	14.9	15.0	15.2	.5	.5	.4	*3.3*	*3.4*	*2.8*
HARDIN-RED LODGE	12.9	13.1	13.8	12.1	12.5	13.2	.8	.6	.6	*6.2*	*4.8*	*4.1*
HAVRE	13.5	13.6	13.4	12.7	12.9	12.8	.8	.7	.6	*6.2*	*5.2*	*4.7*
HELENA	28.2	28.4	28.1	26.6	26.8	26.7	1.6	1.6	1.4	*5.6*	*5.5*	*4.9*
KALISPELL	38.7	38.4	38.2	35.2	35.4	35.6	3.5	3.0	2.6	*9.0*	*7.9*	*6.8*
LEWISTOWN	11.2	11.4	11.4	10.7	10.8	11.0	.5	.6	.4	*4.8*	*5.1*	*3.9*
MILES CITY	15.7	15.7	15.7	15.0	15.0	15.1	.7	.7	.6	*4.7*	*4.5*	*4.0*
MISSOULA	50.1	53.1	52.7	46.2	49.9	49.7	3.9	3.6	3.0	*7.8*	*6.7*	*5.8*
SHELBY-CUT BANK	19.7	20.1	20.3	18.5	19.0	19.2	1.2	1.1	1.1	*6.1*	*5.6*	*5.5*

1/ A list of counties included in each Labor Market Area appears on "New Business Firms" page. Map inside back cover.

2/ Statewide, excluding Great Falls and Billings Standard Metropolitan Statistical Areas.

Totals may not add due to rounding.

TABLE VIII

MONTANA LABOR MARKET AREAS[1/]

Civilian Labor Force

in Thousands

Current Population Survey Data

	CIVILIAN LABOR FORCE			EMPLOYMENT			UNEMPLOYMENT			UNEMPLOYMENT RATE		
	August 1978	August 1977	Percent Change 1977 - 1978	August 1978	August 1977	Percent Change 1977 - 1978	August 1978	August 1977	Net Change 1977 - 1978	August 1978	August 1977	Net Change 1977 - 1978
STATEWIDE	380.7	371.4	*2.5*	360.9	350.2	*3.1*	19.8	21.2	-1.4	*5.2*	*5.7*	*-.5*
GREAT FALLS SMSA	34.7	36.4	*-4.7*	32.5	34.2	*-5.0*	2.2	2.2	0	*6.4*	*6.1*	*.3*
BILLINGS SMSA	51.3	54.3	*-5.5*	49.1	51.9	*-5.4*	2.2	2.4	-.2	*4.3*	*4.4*	*-.1*
BALANCE OF STATE[2/]	294.7	280.7	*5.0*	279.3	264.1	*5.8*	15.4	16.6	-1.2	*5.2*	*5.9*	*-.7*
ANACONDA-BUTTE	38.0	36.0	*5.6*	35.2	33.3	*5.7*	2.8	2.7	.1	*7.5*	*7.5*	*0*
BOZEMAN	29.8	25.6	*16.4*	28.8	24.6	*17.1*	1.0	1.0	0	*3.2*	*4.0*	*-.8*
GLASGOW	17.8	19.3	*-7.8*	17.1	18.2	*-6.0*	.7	1.1	-.4	*4.2*	*5.5*	*-1.3*
GLENDIVE	15.6	15.8	*-1.3*	15.2	15.3	*-.7*	.4	.5	-.1	*2.8*	*3.1*	*-.3*
HARDIN-RED LODGE	13.8	13.6	*1.5*	13.2	12.9	*2.3*	.6	.7	-.1	*4.1*	*5.1*	*-1.0*
HAVRE	13.4	14.3	*-6.3*	12.8	13.6	*-5.9*	.6	.7	-.1	*4.7*	*4.7*	*0*
HELENA	28.1	26.3	*6.8*	26.7	24.8	*7.7*	1.4	1.5	-.1	*4.9*	*5.7*	*-.8*
KALISPELL	38.2	34.0	*12.4*	35.6	31.1	*14.5*	2.6	2.9	-.3	*6.8*	*8.4*	*-1.6*
LEWISTOWN	11.4	12.3	*-7.3*	11.0	11.8	*-6.8*	.4	.5	-.1	*3.9*	*3.9*	*0*
MILES CITY	15.7	16.4	*-4.3*	15.1	15.8	*-4.4*	.6	.6	0	*4.0*	*3.8*	*.2*
MISSOULA	52.7	47.2	*11.7*	49.7	43.8	*13.5*	3.0	3.4	-.4	*5.8*	*7.3*	*-1.5*
SHELBY-CUT BANK	20.3	20.0	*1.5*	19.2	18.9	*1.6*	1.1	1.1	0	*5.5*	*5.3*	*.2*

1/ A list of counties included in each Labor Market Area appears on "New Business Firms" page. Map inside back cover.
2/ Statewide, excluding Great Falls and Billings Standard Metropolitan Statistical Areas.
Totals may not add due to rounding.

TABLE IX A

MONTANA MONTHLY LABOR FORCE BY COUNTY
CURRENT POPULATION SURVEY DATA
AUGUST 1978

COUNTY	CIVILIAN LABOR FORCE	EMPLOYMENT	UNEMPLOYMENT	PERCENT RATE
STATEWIDE	380716	360932	19784	5.2
CASCADE	34666	32458	2208	6.4
YELLOWSTONE	51269	49090	2179	4.3
BEAVERHEAD	4805	4661	144	3.0
BIG HORN	5667	5362	305	5.4
*BLAINE	3146	2890	256	8.1
BROADWATER	1651	1583	68	4.1
CARBON	4169	4007	162	3.9
*CARTER	1219	1130	89	7.3
CHOUTEAU	3399	3274	125	3.7
CUSTER	6106	5937	169	2.8
DANIELS	1614	1570	44	2.7
DAWSON	5770	5576	194	3.4
DEER LODGE	6497	5960	537	8.3
FALLON	2287	2230	57	2.5
FERGUS	5702	5512	190	3.3
FLATHEAD	22098	20642	1456	6.6
GALLATIN	22120	21405	715	3.2
GARFIELD	1033	997	36	3.5
GLACIER	6956	6247	709	10.2
GOLDEN VALLEY	517	504	13	2.5
GRANITE	1449	1327	122	8.4
HILL	8996	8678	318	3.5
JEFFERSON	2387	2212	175	7.3
JUDITH BASIN	1537	1389	148	9.6
LAKE	8847	8387	460	5.2
LEWIS AND CLARK	24010	22877	1133	4.7
LIBERTY	1256	1203	53	4.2
LINCOLN	7218	6545	673	9.3
MC CONE	1540	1503	37	2.4
MADISON	3175	3097	78	2.5
MEAGHER	1207	1179	28	2.3
MINERAL	1813	1683	130	7.2
MISSOULA	38291	36203	2088	5.5
MUSSELSHELL	1804	1752	52	2.9
PARK	6499	6276	223	3.4
PETROLEUM	370	364	6	1.6
PHILLIPS	3036	2936	100	3.3
PONDERA	3816	3701	115	3.0
POWDER RIVER	1305	1268	37	2.8
POWELL	3835	3627	209	5.4
PRAIRIE	1041	1027	14	1.3
RAVALLI	8349	7728	621	7.4
RICHLAND	5375	5259	116	2.2
ROOSEVELT	5156	4911	245	4.8
ROSEBUD	4247	3985	262	6.2
SANDERS	4270	4059	211	4.9
SHERIDAN	2782	2735	47	1.7
SILVER BOW	18235	16488	1747	9.6
STILLWATER	2070	1997	73	3.5
SWEET GRASS	1902	1873	29	1.5
TETON	3115	3036	79	2.5
TOOLE	3011	2919	92	3.1
TREASURE	537	520	17	3.2
VALLEY	5233	4913	320	6.1
WHEATLAND	1473	1437	36	2.4
WIBAUX	838	803	35	4.2

TABLE IX B

MONTANA MONTHLY LABOR FORCE BY COUNTY
CURRENT POPULATION SURVEY DATA

COUNTY	CIVILIAN LABOR FORCE	EMPLOYMENT	UNEMPLOYMENT	JULY 1978 PERCENT RATE
STATEWIDE	381238	358844	22394	5.9
CASCADE	35065	32657	2408	6.9
YELLOWSTONE	52141	49769	2372	4.5
BEAVERHEAD	4735	4510	225	4.8
BIG HORN	5454	5129	325	6.0
BLAINE	3207	2898	309	9.6
BROADWATER	1665	1584	81	4.9
CARBON	3765	3597	168	4.5
CARTER	1192	1101	91	7.6
CHOUTEAU	3347	3235	112	3.3
CUSTER	6187	5990	197	3.2
DANIELS	1596	1550	46	2.9
DAWSON	5913	5641	272	4.6
DEER LODGE	6548	5927	621	9.5
FALLON	2303	2215	88	3.8
FERGUS	5660	5415	245	4.3
FLATHEAD	22431	20716	1715	7.6
GALLATIN	22341	21539	802	3.6
GARFIELD	1007	975	32	3.2
GLACIER	6918	6219	699	10.1
GOLDEN VALLEY	508	496	12	2.4
GRANITE	1384	1263	121	8.7
HILL	9142	8790	352	3.9
JEFFERSON	2443	2246	197	8.1
JUDITH BASIN	1519	1355	164	10.8
LAKE	8623	8113	510	5.9
LEWIS AND CLARK	24291	22999	1292	5.3
LIBERTY	1236	1189	47	3.8
LINCOLN	7315	6525	790	10.8
MC CONE	1510	1470	40	2.6
MADISON	3157	3055	102	3.2
MEAGHER	1158	1124	34	2.9
MINERAL	1883	1762	121	6.4
MISSOULA	38973	36526	2447	6.3
MUSSELSHELL	1800	1736	64	3.6
PARK	6429	6150	279	4.3
PETROLEUM	359	353	6	1.7
PHILLIPS	2973	2859	114	3.8
PONDERA	3784	3658	126	3.3
POWDER RIVER	1264	1231	33	2.6
POWELL	3841	3628	213	5.5
PRAIRIE	1045	1031	14	1.3
RAVALLI	8323	7640	683	8.2
RICHLAND	5281	5138	143	2.7
ROOSEVELT	5247	4864	383	7.3
ROSEBUD	4218	3934	284	6.7
SANDERS	4296	3980	316	7.4
SHERIDAN	2778	2720	58	2.1
SILVER BOW	16938	15074	1864	11.0
STILLWATER	2040	1960	80	3.9
SWEET GRASS	1883	1819	64	3.4
TETON	3057	2973	84	2.7
TOOLE	2981	2887	94	3.2
TREASURE	569	551	18	3.2
VALLEY	5187	4864	323	6.2
WHEATLAND	1517	1427	90	5.9
WIBAUX	811	787	24	3.0

TABLE X

ESTABLISHMENT DATA

MONTANA

FEMALE EMPLOYMENT BY INDUSTRY

August 1978

(In Thousands)

INDUSTRY	FEMALE EMPLOYMENT					TOTAL EMPLOYMENT COMPARISON			
				Net Change to Current Month From:					
	August 1978 1/	July 1978	August 1977	July 1978	August 1977	Total	Percent Women	Total	Percent Women
						August 1978		July 1978	
Nonagricultural Wage & Salary Workers .	116.4	116.2	111.7	+.2	+4.7	277.8	41.9	277.3	41.9
Manufacturing	3.0	2.9	3.1	+.1	-.1	25.3	11.9	25.0	11.6
Mining	.4	.4	.3	0	+.1	7.7	5.2	7.7	5.2
Contract Construction	1.3	1.2	1.3	+.1	0	17.7	7.3	17.4	6.9
Transportation & Public Utilities .	4.0	4.0	3.8	0	+.2	22.0	18.2	22.0	18.2
Wholesale & Retail Trade	32.5	32.4	30.2	+.1	+2.3	73.2	44.4	72.6	44.6
Finance, Insurance & Real Estate ..	8.0	8.1	7.5	-.1	+.5	12.0	66.7	12.1	66.9
Services	32.9	32.9	32.6	0	+.3	48.0	68.5	48.5	67.8
Government 2/	34.3	34.3	32.9	0	+1.4	71.9	47.7	72.0	47.6

1/ *Current month preliminary. Revised to 1976 Benchmark. Establishment Series began January 1974.*

2/ *Includes all civilian employees of Federal, State, and Local Governments regardless of the activity in which the employee is engaged.*

Prepared by the Montana Employment Security Division in Cooperation with the U. S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics.

TABLE XI

MONTANA FEMALE EMPLOYMENT BY INDUSTRY

(In Thousands)

1977

	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	June	July	Aug.	Sep.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Ann. Avg.
Nonagricultural Wage & Salary .	103.2	103.8	105.8	107.0	105.9	109.8	109.2	111.7	114.2	113.9	114.6	114.8	109.5
Manufacturing	3.2	3.1	3.0	3.1	2.9	3.0	3.0	3.1	3.0	3.2	2.9	2.8	3.0
Mining	.3	.3	.3	.3	.3	.3	.3	.3	.3	.3	.3	.3	.3
Contract Construction.....	.8	.8	.7	.8	1.0	1.0	1.1	1.3	1.3	1.1	1.1	1.1	1.0
Transport. & Public Utilities.	3.5	3.5	3.5	3.4	3.6	3.8	3.9	3.8	3.7	3.8	3.8	3.8	3.7
Wholesale & Retail Trade.....	26.8	26.7	28.0	28.8	29.0	30.6	30.2	30.2	30.6	31.1	31.4	31.0	29.5
Finance, Ins., & Real Estate..	6.8	6.9	6.9	6.9	7.0	7.1	7.2	7.5	7.6	7.6	7.6	7.6	7.2
Services	30.5	30.7	31.1	31.4	31.3	32.4	32.6	32.6	33.1	32.4	33.1	33.2	32.1
Government1/	31.3	31.8	32.3	32.3	30.8	31.6	30.9	32.9	34.6	34.4	34.4	35.0	32.7

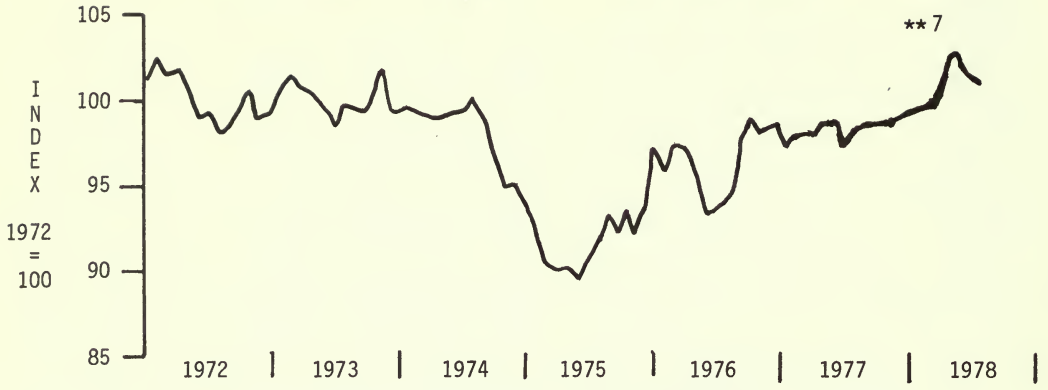
1978

	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	June	July	Aug.
Nonagricultural Wage & Salary .	115.2	115.4	116.2	117.4	117.5	118.3	117.6	116.4
Manufacturing	2.7	2.7	2.7	2.7	2.7	2.8	2.8	3.0
Mining.....	.3	.3	.3	.3	.4	.4	.4	.4
Contract Construction	1.1	1.1	1.1	1.2	1.2	1.2	1.2	1.3
Transport. & Public Utilities.	3.8	3.8	3.8	3.8	3.9	3.9	4.0	4.0
Wholesale & Retail Trade.....	30.7	30.5	30.8	31.4	31.6	31.0	32.1	32.5
Finance, Ins., & Real Estate..	7.6	7.8	7.9	7.9	8.0	8.1	8.1	8.0
Services.....	33.2	33.3	33.4	33.5	33.4	33.9	33.9	32.9
Government1/.....	35.8	35.9	36.2	36.6	36.3	36.0	35.1	34.3

1/ Includes all civilian employees of Federal, State, and Local Governments regardless of the activity in which the employee is engaged. Establishment Series began January, 1974. Revised to 1977 Benchmark.
Prepared by Montana Employment Security Division in cooperation with U.S. Dept. of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics.

ECONOMIC INDICATORS

COMPOSITE INDEX OF SIX ECONOMIC INDICATORS*



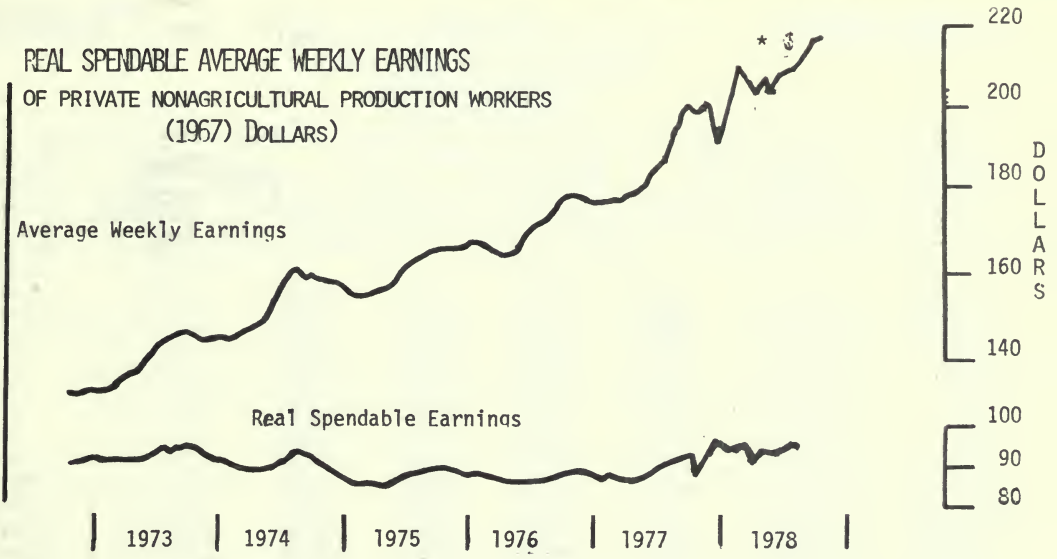
Composite Index of SIX ECONOMIC INDICATORS 1972 = 100	
1977	
January	98.2
February	99.2
March	99.0
April	99.1
May	97.1
June	97.5
July	95.8
August	97.1
September	98.1
October	98.1
November	98.0
December	98.5
1978	
January	100.1
February	100.2
March	103.1
April	103.8
May	102.4
June	101.7
July	101.3
August	
September	
October	
November	
December	

MONTANA'S COMPOSITE INDEX

The composite index of leading indicators moved slightly downward in July, again influenced by the varied mix of gains and losses in the component indicators. The layoff rate and initial claims count showed improvement while manufacturing employment stayed constant, but the negative influence of losses in the accession rate, average manufacturing hours, and building permits pulled the composite down. Analysis shows that the index has been on a downward trend since the April peak but the length and magnitude of the trend are not substantial enough as a basis for any economic predictions.

* *Employment, Average Weekly Hours, Total Accessions, and Layoffs in Manufacturing; Building Permits, and Average Weekly Initial Unemployment Insurance Claims.*

** *Indicates last month of plotted data.*



	July 1978	June 1978	July 1977
Gross Average Weekly Earnings	$217.49	$216.58	$190.97
Taxes Withheld	35.19	34.92	27.29
Spendable Earnings	182.30	181.66	163.67
Adjustment for Price Changes Since 1967	89.63	88.63	74.04
Real Spendable Earnings in 1967 Dollars	92.67	93.03	89.63

	Average Weekly Earnings	Real Spendable Earnings
1977		
July	190.97	89.63
Aug.	200.28	92.96
Sep.	197.89	91.67
Oct.	202.65	93.29
Nov.	190.85	88.23
Dec.	210.37	95.44
1978		
Jan.	205.19	92.67
Feb.	209.10	93.63
Mar.	203.28	90.71
Apr.	207.77	91.58
May	208.58	91.04
June	216.58	93.03
July	217.49	92.67
Aug.		
Sep.		
Oct.		
Nov.		
Dec.		

REAL SPENDABLE EARINGS

Gross earnings rose slightly during July, but price changes and taxes withheld combined to effectively negate any positive movement in real spendable earnings. Analysis of the trend in real spendable earnings for the year indicates monthly fluctuations, but at the same time an almost constant level since January. The rising prices as reflected in the CPI continue to mollify the upward movement in gross wages. It appears that there can be no positive change in real spendable earnings if present inflation rates persist.

* *Indicates last month of plotted data.* *p: Preliminary*

1/ Average weekly earnings of total private nonagricultural production workers.

2/ Real spendable average weekly earnings of private nonagricultural production workers.

MONTANA CIVILIAN LABOR FORCE

SEASONALLY ADJUSTED

(in Thousands)

Date	Civilian Labor Force	EMPLOYMENT			UNEMPLOYMENT			Labor Management Dispute 2/
		Total	Non-Ag	Agri.	Total	Percent 1/ Montana	Percent 1/ U. S.	
1976								
January	327.7	307.2	275.1	32.1	20.5	6.3	7.8	*
February	328.3	308.8	275.6	33.2	19.5	5.9	7.6	*
March	328.3	308.3	275.2	33.1	20.0	6.1	7.5	*
April	330.0	311.1	276.8	34.3	18.9	5.7	7.5	*
May	329.4	310.3	277.1	33.2	19.1	5.8	7.3	*
June	326.4	306.8	273.4	33.4	19.6	6.0	7.5	.1
July	334.2	313.9	279.4	34.5	20.3	6.1	7.8	.1
August	333.9	313.2	279.3	33.9	20.7	6.2	7.9	.1
September	335.6	315.5	282.2	33.3	20.1	6.0	7.8	.1
October	335.0	315.1	281.9	33.2	19.9	5.9	7.9	.1
November	337.2	317.0	283.8	33.2	20.2	6.0	8.1	.1
December	337.0	315.9	282.3	33.6	21.1	6.3	7.8	.1
1976 Avg.	332.0	312.0	278.6	33.4	20.0	6.1	7.7	.1
1977								
January	337.1	315.9	282.2	33.7	21.2	6.3	7.4	.1
February	339.9	317.9	283.0	34.9	22.0	6.5	7.6	.1
March	340.0	317.5	282.4	35.1	22.5	6.6	7.4	.1
April	340.6	318.3	281.9	36.4	22.3	6.6	7.1	.1
May	340.5	317.4	282.3	35.1	23.1	6.8	7.1	.1
June	337.2	316.4	281.0	35.4	20.8	6.2	7.1	.2
July	344.4	321.7	285.5	36.2	22.7	6.6	6.9	3.3
August	347.9	324.8	289.4	35.4	23.1	6.6	7.0	.2
September	346.6	323.8	289.5	34.3	22.8	6.6	6.8	.1
October	347.2	325.3	291.6	33.7	21.9	6.3	6.8	.5
November	347.6	326.4	293.2	33.2	21.2	6.1	6.7	.1
December	346.5	326.0	292.5	33.5	20.5	5.9	6.4	.2
1977 Avg.	343.0	321.0	286.3	34.7	22.0	6.4	7.0	.4
1978								
January	352.6	329.4	295.8	33.6	23.2	6.6	6.3	.2
February	361.3	334.6	299.9	34.7	26.7	7.4	6.1	.2
March	362.4	336.2	301.6	34.6	26.2	7.2	6.2	*
April	362.3	339.4	305.1	34.3	22.9	6.3	6.0	*
May	361.9	338.9	305.9	33.0	23.0	6.4	6.1	*
June	360.3	337.1	304.0	33.1	23.2	6.4	5.7	.4
July	361.3	338.2	304.6	33.6	23.1	6.4	6.2	.2
August	357.1	335.5	302.9	32.6	21.6	6.0	5.9	.1
September								
October								
November								
December								
Avg.								

1/ *Computed from whole (unrounded) numbers.*

2/ *Non-additive - included in total employment.*

* *Under 50.*

Series began January 1970.

Revised to 1977 Benchmarks.

Current month preliminary

NOTE: Seasonally adjusted data are provided for statistical analysis only and should not be confused with actual numbers.

RESIDENCE DATA

Table XIII

GREAT FALLS SMSA (CASCADE COUNTY)

Civilian Labor Force
SEASONALLY ADJUSTED
(in Thousands)

CURRENT POPULATION SURVEY DATA

Date	Civilian Labor Force	EMPLOYMENT			UNEMPLOYMENT			Labor Management Dispute[2]
		Total	Non-Ag	Agri.	Total	Percent[1] County	Percent[1] State	
1976								
January	30.7	28.6	27.3	1.3	2.1	6.9	6.3	*
February	31.2	29.2	27.9	1.3	2.0	6.5	5.9	*
March	31.3	29.2	27.9	1.3	2.1	6.7	6.1	*
April	30.8	28.8	27.4	1.4	2.0	6.5	5.7	*
May	30.9	29.0	27.7	1.3	1.9	6.2	5.8	*
June	31.0	28.9	27.6	1.3	2.1	6.8	6.0	*
July	31.6	29.5	28.1	1.4	2.1	6.7	6.1	*
August	31.7	29.6	28.2	1.4	2.1	6.5	6.2	*
September	31.6	29.7	28.4	1.3	1.9	6.1	6.0	*
October	31.7	29.8	28.5	1.3	1.9	6.1	5.9	*
November	32.2	30.2	28.9	1.3	2.0	6.2	6.0	*
December	30.8	28.9	27.6	1.3	1.9	6.3	6.3	*
1976 Avg.	31.3	29.3	28.0	1.3	2.0	6.5	6.1	*
1977								
January	33.0	31.1	29.7	1.4	1.9	5.8	6.3	*
February	34.4	32.5	31.1	1.4	1.9	5.5	6.5	*
March	34.0	32.0	30.6	1.4	2.0	5.9	6.6	*
April	34.4	32.5	31.0	1.5	1.9	5.7	6.6	*
May	34.5	32.4	31.0	1.4	2.1	6.1	6.8	*
June	34.6	32.8	31.4	1.4	1.8	5.1	6.2	*
July	34.9	32.9	31.5	1.4	2.0	5.6	6.6	.8
August	35.4	33.1	31.7	1.4	2.3	6.5	6.6	*
September	35.4	32.9	31.5	1.4	2.5	7.0	6.6	*
October	35.9	33.6	32.3	1.3	2.3	6.5	6.3	.4
November	35.5	33.4	32.1	1.3	2.1	5.9	6.1	*
December	35.6	33.4	32.1	1.3	2.2	6.2	5.9	*
1977 Avg.	34.8	32.7	31.3	1.4	2.1	6.0	6.4	.1
1978								
January	36.5	33.9	32.5	1.4	2.6	7.0	6.6	*
February	37.8	34.5	33.1	1.4	3.3	8.7	7.4	*
March	35.7	33.1	31.7	1.4	2.6	7.4	7.2	*
April	35.0	32.8	31.4	1.4	2.2	6.3	6.3	*
May	35.0	32.7	31.4	1.3	2.3	6.6	6.4	*
June	34.9	32.4	31.1	1.3	2.5	7.3	6.4	*
July	34.1	31.7	30.4	1.3	2.4	6.9	6.4	*
August	33.6	31.3	30.0	1.3	2.3	6.8	6.0	*
September								
October								
November								
December								
Avg.								

1/ *Computed from whole (unrounded) numbers.*
2/ *Non-additive - included in total employment.*
* *Under 50.*

Series began January 1970.
Revised to 1977 Benchmarks.
Current month preliminary.

NOTE: Seasonally adjusted data are provided for statistical analysis only and should not be confused with actual numbers.

Table XIV

BILLINGS SMSA (YELLOWSTONE COUNTY)

Civilian Labor Force

SEASONALLY ADJUSTED

(in Thousands)

Date	Civilian Labor Force	EMPLOYMENT			UNEMPLOYMENT			Labor Management Dispute[2]
		Total	Non-Ag	Agri.	Total	Percent[1] County	Percent[1] State	
1976								
January	46.0	43.6	42.2	1.4	2.4	5.2	6.3	*
February	46.4	44.3	42.8	1.5	2.1	4.6	5.9	*
March	46.5	44.3	42.8	1.5	2.2	4.8	6.1	*
April	47.2	45.0	43.4	1.6	2.2	4.7	5.7	*
May	46.8	44.6	43.1	1.5	2.2	4.6	5.8	*
June	47.0	44.7	43.1	1.6	2.3	4.8	6.0	*
July	48.0	45.7	44.1	1.6	2.3	4.8	6.1	*
August	47.9	45.6	44.0	1.6	2.3	4.8	6.2	*
September	49.3	47.1	45.6	1.5	2.2	4.4	6.0	*
October	48.6	46.4	44.9	1.5	2.2	4.6	5.9	*
November	48.9	46.6	45.1	1.5	2.3	4.7	6.0	*
December	49.5	47.0	45.5	1.5	2.5	5.0	6.3	*
1976 Avg.	47.7	45.4	43.9	1.5	2.3	4.8	6.1	*
1977								
January	50.3	48.0	46.5	1.5	2.3	4.5	6.3	*
February	52.4	49.9	48.3	1.6	2.5	4.7	6.5	*
March	52.3	50.0	48.4	1.6	2.3	4.5	6.6	*
April	52.2	49.8	48.1	1.7	2.4	4.5	6.6	*
May	52.2	49.4	47.8	1.6	2.8	5.4	6.8	*
June	51.1	49.2	47.6	1.6	1.9	3.8	6.2	*
July	51.7	49.6	48.0	1.6	2.1	4.0	6.6	.1
August	53.2	50.7	49.0	1.7	2.5	4.8	6.6	.1
September	53.6	51.0	49.4	1.6	2.6	4.9	6.6	.1
October	53.3	50.7	49.2	1.5	2.6	4.9	6.3	.1
November	53.7	51.2	49.7	1.5	2.5	4.6	6.1	.1
December	53.0	50.7	49.2	1.5	2.3	4.3	5.9	.1
1977 Avg.	52.4	50.0	48.4	1.6	2.4	4.6	6.4	*
1978								
January	53.2	50.5	49.0	1.5	2.7	5.1	6.6	.1
February	55.6	52.3	50.7	1.6	3.3	5.9	7.4	.1
March	53.8	50.6	49.0	1.6	3.2	5.9	7.2	*
April	52.8	50.3	48.7	1.6	2.5	4.7	6.3	*
May	52.7	50.0	48.5	1.5	2.7	5.1	6.4	*
June	51.0	48.6	47.1	1.5	2.4	4.7	6.4	*
July	50.8	48.5	47.0	1.5	2.3	4.5	6.4	*
August	50.1	47.8	46.3	1.5	2.3	4.6	6.0	*
September								
October								
November								
December								
Avg.								

1/ *Computed from whole (unrounded) numbers*

2/ *Non-additive - included in total employment.*

* *Under 50.*

Series began January 1970.

Revised to 1977 Benchmarks.

Current month preliminary.

NOTE: Seasonally adjusted data are provided for statistical analysis only and should not be confused with actual numbers.

TABLE XV

MONTANA HOURS AND EARNINGS

For Private Nonagricultural Industries

	Average Weekly Earnings			Average Weekly Hours			Average Hourly Earnings		
	August 1978	July 1978	August 1977	August 1978	July 1978	August 1977	August 1978	July 1978	August 1977
TOTAL PRIVATE	$214.53	$217.49	$200.28	36.3	36.8	35.7	5.91	5.91	5.61
MANUFACTURING	335.75	330.03	273.49	42.5	41.1	42.6	7.90	8.03	6.42
Durable Goods	340.08	325.58	278.42	43.6	40.8	43.3	7.80	7.98	6.43
Primary Metal Industries	329.38	328.10	281.94	37.6	37.2	37.0	8.76	8.82	7.62
Nondurable Goods	332.92	342.27	261.12	40.8	42.1	40.8	8.16	8.13	6.40
Food and Kindred Products	273.42	280.90	241.82	44.1	44.8	42.8	6.20	6.27	5.65
MINING	382.33	377.31	374.69	42.2	41.6	42.1	9.06	9.07	8.90
Metal Mining	420.39	420.39	437.96	39.4	39.4	41.2	10.67	10.67	10.63
CONTRACT CONSTRUCTION	366.64	373.11	429.46	34.5	35.1	38.9	10.61	10.63	11.04
TRANSPORTATION AND PUBLIC UTILITIES	303.81	304.29	314.61	41.0	40.9	42.4	7.41	7.44	7.42
Communications, Electric, Gas, Sanitary Services	293.04	294.53	275.37	44.0	43.7	42.3	6.66	6.74	6.51
WHOLESALE AND RETAIL TRADE	166.21	176.17	163.45	34.2	36.1	35.0	4.86	4.88	4.67
FINANCE, INSURANCE, AND REAL ESTATE	148.10	148.73	129.78	36.3	36.1	37.4	4.08	4.12	3.47
SERVICES	135.14	135.14	111.80	33.7	33.7	29.5	4.01	4.01	3.79

Data for current month are preliminary.
Averages are based on gross earnings, including overtime and premium pay.
Selected Industries series began January 1950; Total Private Sector series began January 1969 (May 1972 issue).
Prepared by U. S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics.

TABLE XVI

MONTANA LABOR TURNOVER RATES

In Manufacturing and Mining Industries

(per 100 employees)

July 1978

	ACCESSION RATES						SEPARATION RATES								
	Total			New Hires			Total			Quits			Layoffs		
	July 1978	June 1978	July 1977	July 1978	June 1978	July 1977	July 1978	June 1978	July 1977	July 1978	June 1978	July 1977	July 1978	June 1978	July 1977
MANUFACTURING	3.5	6.5	3.4	2.6	5.4	3.2	2.6	3.6	2.7	1.6	1.7	1.5	0.3	0.8	0.6
Durable Goods	3.7	6.4	3.7	2.5	5.5	3.6	2.5	3.5	2.6	1.6	1.5	1.5	0.3	0.8	0.4
Primary Metal Industries	5.3	5.8	1.9	1.4	4.4	1.9	1.3	3.3	1.8	0.8	0.6	1.2	0.2	1.1	*
Nondurable Goods	3.1	6.6	2.7	2.8	5.3	2.6	3.0	3.5	2.9	1.6	2.1	1.5	0.2	0.8	0.9
MINING	6.0	11.5	1.0	5.3	4.8	0.8	3.0	3.5	3.6	1.0	2.5	1.2	1.0	*	0.1
Metal Mining	0.9	3.7	2.0	0.2	0.2	0.8	3.5	1.9	12.9	0.1	0.3	1.2	0.1	0.2	0.5

* *Less than .05.*
Prepared by U. S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics.
Series began January 1959.

TABLE XVII

NEW BUSINESS FIRMS IN MONTANA

BY INDUSTRY

New business firms in Montana are a reflection of economic activity within the business community. Data furnished on this page and the following page are an aggregate of information supplied by the office of the Montana Secretary of State and the Montana Employment Security Division. These data should in no way be construed as being absolute. They are presented to indicate business trends during the survey period.

The chart on the following page is a break-down by county and labor market area of business starts in Montana during the current month and year to date, with a comparison to the previous year.

The following chart is a break-down of new businesses by industry, with a comparison to last year.

Industry	August 1978	August 1977	Year to Date 1978	Year to Date 1977
AGRICULTURE, FORESTRY, AND FISHERIES	35	17	264	199
MINING	20	11	78	98
CONTRACT CONSTRUCTION	99	105	716	619
MANUFACTURING	37	21	186	146
TRANSPORTATION, COMMUNICATION, ELECTRIC, GAS, AND SANITARY SERVICES	24	17	129	121
WHOLESALE AND RETAIL TRADE	148	153	963	845
FINANCE, INSURANCE, AND REAL ESTATE	44	30	336	295
SERVICES	173	117	1,104	921
GOVERNMENT	0	0	0	0
NOT ELSEWHERE CLASSIFIED	32	16	69	67
STATE TOTAL	612	487	3,845	3,311

TABLE XVIII

NEW BUSINESS FIRMS IN MONTANA

BY LABOR MARKET AREA

Areas	NEW BUSINESS FIRMS			
			Year to Date	
	Aug. 1978	Aug. 1977	1978	1977
STATE OF MONTANA	612	487	3845	3311
GREAT FALLS SMSA	41	64	332	373
BILLINGS SMSA	101	96	612	505
ANACONDA-BUTTE LMA	50	21	271	228
Beaverhead	8	5	45	30
Deer Lodge	4	7	17	24
Granite	1	0	9	6
Madison	5	0	32	24
Powell	9	1	29	17
Silver Bow	23	8	139	127
BOZEMAN LMA	77	36	409	312
Gallatin	63	33	332	242
Meagher	1	0	13	4
Park	13	3	64	66
GLASGOW LMA	20	17	102	97
Daniels	0	3	3	9
Phillips	2	5	11	12
Roosevelt	8	1	35	20
Sheridan	3	2	19	20
Valley	7	6	34	36
GLENDIVE LMA	20	19	150	115
Dawson	6	5	42	33
Garfield	0	1	8	5
McCone	0	4	5	9
Prairie	0	2	7	12
Richland	14	7	85	54
Wibaux	0	0	3	2
HARDIN-RED LODGE LMA	10	8	107	74
Big Horn	3	7	34	24
Carbon	1	1	32	25
Stillwater	5	0	23	17
Sweet Grass	1	0	18	8

Areas	NEW BUSINESS FIRMS			
			Year to Date	
	Aug. 1978	Aug. 1977	1978	1977
HAVRE LMA	20	14	116	114
Blaine	4	2	22	15
Hill	15	12	78	76
Liberty	1	0	16	23
HELENA LMA	41	42	294	262
Broadwater	1	5	13	17
Jefferson	9	2	37	17
Lewis and Clark	31	35	244	228
KALISPELL LMA	83	51	489	395
Flathead	55	34	337	275
Lake	18	11	83	68
Lincoln	10	6	69	52
LEWISTOWN LMA	12	9	83	79
Fergus	7	8	52	55
Golden Valley	0	0	2	3
Judith Basin	3	1	7	5
Musselshell	1	0	15	14
Petroleum	0	0	2	0
Wheatland	1	0	5	2
MILES CITY LMA	18	14	108	97
Carter	0	2	7	7
Custer	4	3	45	53
Fallon	1	3	13	8
Powder River	10	2	16	4
Rosebud	3	3	26	21
Treasure	0	1	1	4
MISSOULA LMA	101	82	599	520
Mineral	2	3	14	12
Missoula	68	58	439	387
Ravalli	19	14	107	84
Sanders	12	7	39	37
SHELBY-CUT BANK LMA	18	14	173	140
Chouteau	1	1	22	12
Glacier	6	3	44	28
Pondera	2	4	42	42
Teton	3	2	22	13
Toole	6	4	43	45

Source of data: State of Montana Employment Security Division, Research and Analysis Section; Montana Secretary of State.

UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE

UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE: CLAIM TO PAYMENT

Many of those persons who become separated from their jobs, enter our local Job Service offices for two reasons; to seek employment and to claim unemployment insurance (UI) benefits. Claimant wage credits obtained from insured employers are examined to determine if the claim meets monetary eligibility requirements for UI benefits and, if so, for how much per week and for how many potential weeks is the claimant qualified. Monetarily eligible claims are subsequently segregated according to criteria for establishing which party (claimant or employer) was most responsible for the job separation in question. Claims for job separations resulting from claimant actions (issues) are further subjected to the test of whether or not an individual's reduction in his potential benefit duration is warranted. If otherwise eligible and if availability criteria continue to be complied with throughout his actual unemployment duration, weekly benefit payments will commence with the claimant's second week of unemployment (a waiting week must be served under the Montana Law). The number and amount of such payments by county are shown in the table on the following page. Interstate payments in the table refer to payments made to individuals who now reside in other states but who had established wage credits in Montana based employment. Amounts shown in the table are financed through employer taxes paid to the Montana UI Trust Fund Account.

ETA5-159B DISTRIBUTION OF UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE
AUGUST 197[illegible]

COUNTY	COUNT	AMOUNT
BEAVERHEAD	119	[illegible],676.94
BIGHORN	728	14,917.13
BLAINE	600	13,245.87
BROADWATER	48	[illegible],758.00
CARBON	190	15,151.48
CARTER	68	2,838.00
CASCADE	2,667	206,[illegible]25.07
CHOUTEAU	107	6,612.00
CUSTER	79	5,927.95
DANIELS	37	1,959.00
DAWSON	181	9,378.66
DEER LODGE	950	74,564.60
FALLON	31	2,782.00
FERGUS	161	13,625.83
FLATHEAD	1,611	120,115.31
GALLATIN	860	64,320.47
GARFIELD	17	801.00
GLACIER	867	60,287.27
GOLDEN VALLEY	16	731.00
GRANITE	225	17,998.92
HILL	314	18,279.65
JEFFERSON	223	18,821.60
JUDITH BASIN	94	3,767.68
LAKE	572	38,369.84
LEWIS AND CLARK	1,496	113,254.69
LIBERTY	23	1,136.00
LINCOLN	614	52,674.77
MCCONE	7	502.00
MADISON	47	3,346.91
MEAGHER	11	672.00
MINERAL	100	6,344.20
MISSOULA	2,964	221,751.24
MUSSELSHELL	40	2,827.00
PARK	260	18,651.22
PETROLEUM	5	265.00
PHILLIPS	93	6,713.00
PONDERA	79	5,206.00
POWDER RIVER	13	1,179.00
POWELL	204	13,948.25
PRAIRIE	5	422.00
RAVALLI	596	39,365.65
RICHLAND	42	2,973.00
ROOSEVELT	348	22,154.30
ROSEBUD	260	25,413.68
SANDERS	252	14,674.12
SHERIDAN	30	1,984.00
SILVER BOW	3,526	259,605.11
STILLWATER	81	6,125.00
SWEET GRASS	26	1,495.00
TETON	59	3,363.79
TOOLE	82	5,709.01
TREASURE	3	123.00
VALLEY	293	18,077.00
WHEATLAND	30	2,013.00
WIBAUX	21	1,127.00
YELLOWSTONE	2,933	212,121.42
INTRASTATE	24,735	1,783,916.73
INTERSTATE	1,057	124,168.35
TOTAL	25,792	1,908,085.08

CUMULATIVE DISTRIBUTION OF UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE
JANUARY 1978 THRU AUGUST 1978

COUNTY	COUNT	AMOUNT
BEAVERHEAD	1,816	135,668.93
BIGHORN	2,703	218,736.23
BLAINE	2,051	149,189.40
BROADWATER	685	53,142.74
CARBON	2,266	183,240.36
CARTER	211	15,134.00
CASCADE	26,362	1,996,865.47
CHOUTEAU	855	53,940.20
CUSTER	3,072	247,709.84
DANIELS	448	31,505.76
DAWSON	2,166	167,995.04
DEER LODGE	9,030	752,507.33
FALLON	703	50,811.04
FERGUS	3,410	264,047.03
FLATHEAD	20,931	1,608,684.84
GALLATIN	10,329	791,889.32
GARFIELD	185	13,658.63
GLACIER	6,017	452,637.42
GOLDEN VALLEY	121	7,528.00
GRANITE	1,320	101,715.22
HILL	4,258	315,924.52
JEFFERSON	1,990	168,816.66
JUDITH BASIN	841	70,983.21
LAKE	5,603	403,464.78
LEWIS AND CLARK	15,266	1,207,074.48
LIBERTY	410	31,691.00
LINCOLN	11,047	865,208.68
MCCONE	445	36,410.00
MADISON	889	68,084.27
MEAGHER	576	44,490.44
MINERAL	1,416	112,146.93
MISSOULA	26,488	1,951,353.98
MUSSELSHELL	991	79,002.68
PARK	3,978	280,774.64
PETROLEUM	40	3,763.00
PHILLIPS	1,280	93,443.25
PONDERA	1,331	104,163.75
POWDER RIVER	169	16,204.00
POWELL	2,539	194,917.56
PRAIRIE	430	38,522.00
RAVALLI	6,621	463,621.33
RICHLAND	1,292	99,057.20
ROOSEVELT	2,544	171,593.75
ROSEBUD	2,849	231,393.84
SANDERS	4,082	317,198.37
SHERIDAN	577	38,764.04
SILVER BOW	24,296	1,910,208.32
STILLWATER	1,138	91,392.28
SWEET GRASS	335	24,398.00
TETON	1,102	81,606.19
TOOLE	1,418	110,124.74
TREASURE	204	19,714.00
VALLEY	3,736	268,926.97
WHEATLAND	397	32,332.00
WIBAUX	166	12,515.00
YELLOWSTONE	30,870	2,463,445.33
INTRASTATE	258,015	19,969,232.93
INTERSTATE	14,176	1,551,431.34
TOTAL	272,191	21,520,664.27

SELECTED UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE ACTIVITIES IN MONTANA

YEAR-TO-DATE

	1978	1977	Net Change	Percent Change
Initial Claims[1]	30,622	32,208	-1,586	*-4.9*
Continued Claims[1]	339,855	314,503	25,352	*8.1*
Number of Benefit Payments[1]	272,332	276,697	-4,365	*-1.6*
Amount of Benefits Paid[1]	$21,520,702	$20,937,764	$582,938	*2.8*
Average Weekly Benefit Amount[1/2]	$84.09	$78.98	$5.11	*6.5*

MONTHLY

	August 1978	July 1978	August 1977	Change From Year Ago Net	Change From Year Ago Percent
Initial Claims[1]	2,590	3,437	3,061	-471	*-15.4*
Continued Claims[1]	33,936	27,765	34,028	-92	*-0.3*
Number of Benefit Payments[1]	25,792	21,513	25,648	144	*0.6*
Amount of Benefits Paid[1]	$1,908,085	$1,645,498	$1,815,207	$92,878	*5.1*
Avg. Weekly Benefit Amt[1/2]	$76.80	$79.78	$74.52	$2.28	*3.1*
Trust Fund Balance	$4,355,916*	$825,753*	$750,115**	$3,605,801	*480.7*

1/ Regular Unemployment Insurance Program only.
2/ Derived according to definition in "Handbook of Unemployment Insurance Financial Data".
** Excludes Loans from Federal Government, which amount to $10,484,089.*
*** Excludes Loans from Federal Government, which amount to $ 9,284,089.*

The initial claims total once again dropped from the previous month's mark and the year ago monthly figure. The year-to-date initial claims count is still running behind last year's total. The continued claims total rose from July to August, but the figure was slightly less than the August, 1977 total. Continued claims are still outpacing the 1977 year-to-date total by over 8.0%.

The number of benefit payments and the amount of benefits paid increased sharply from July to August, but the year-to-date totals for both statistics remain close to the 1977 figures.

The average weekly benefit amount (AWBA) dropped once again from the preceding month, but remained ahead of the year-to-date AWBA for 1977.

The trust fund balance rose to over $4.3 million in August, an increase of $3.5 million from July. This increase can be attributed to the large inflow of contributions coming in from covered employers for the second quarter. The trust fund balance at this point in 1978 is healthier compared to August of 1977, when it stood at only $750,115.